

BARDSTOWN

Town of Tradition

By MATTINGLY SPALDING



Illustrated by
BROTHER DAVID C. F. X.
NORA LEE MCGEE
WALTER H. KISER

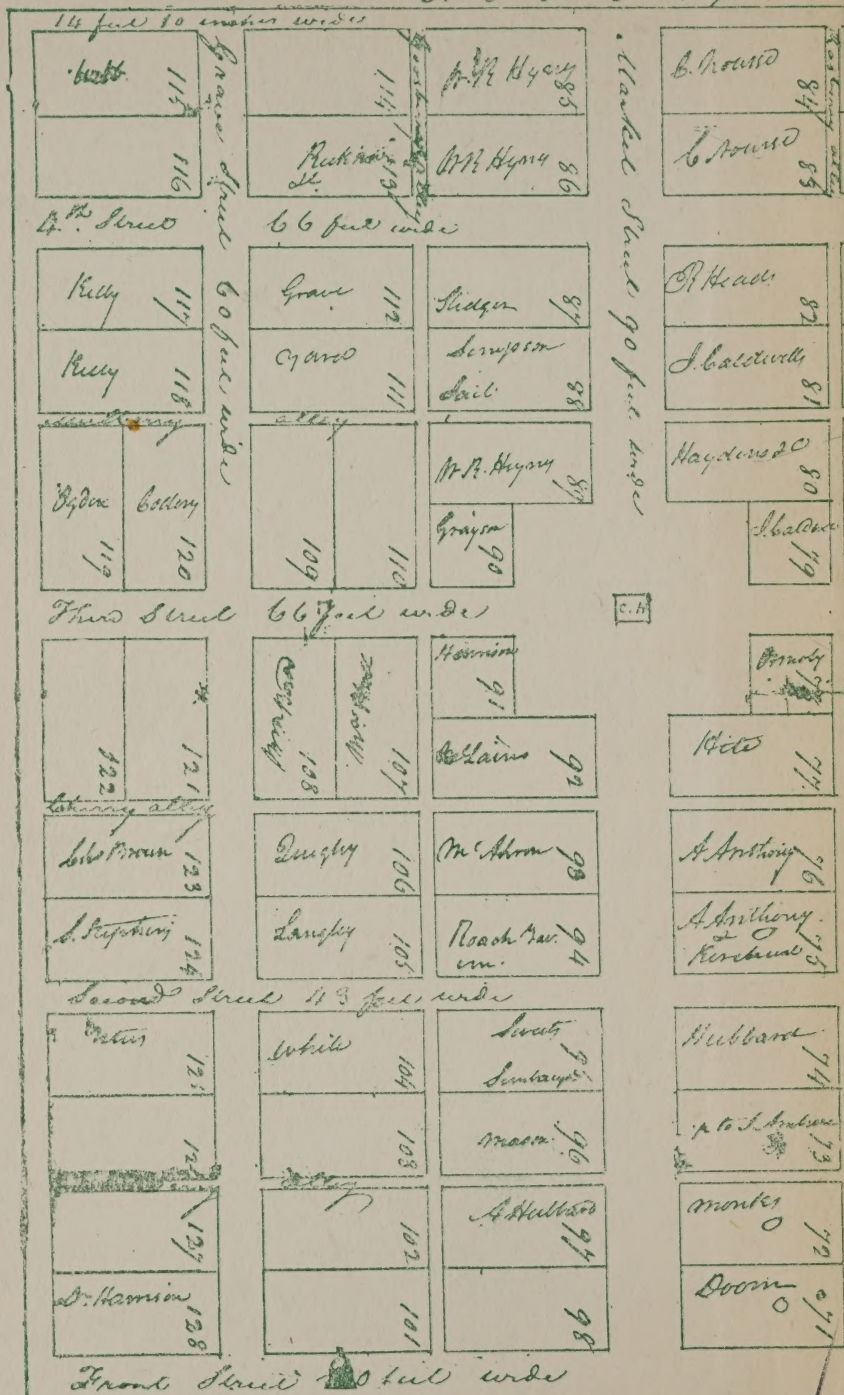
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Nelson County, Mo.
I Benjamin Grayson clerk of the county court of the said county, do certify that the within is a true copy of the plan of Bardstown now of record in my office. Given under my hand this 26th day of September 1924.

MAP OF BARDSTOWN, KY.

Sgd. Ben Trayson



450

Ground 10 feet wide

March 130 per 1000

Anderson Alley

10 bush mds

Dark above. Below under

70	69
----	----

11

61

65

64
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60

Aug 2

—

60

59

38

7

~~To Auntie Rose,~~

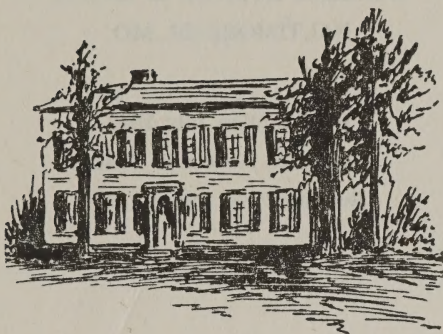
with much love -

Christmas, 1947

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For

JACK MUIR

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AUTHOR'S NOTE

When one tries to write a history of Bardstown, he has hurled at him the full challenge embodied in the expression, "a maze of contradictions". Fact and figment have been intermingled for so long that it is almost impossible in some cases to discern the one from the other. When he was unable to reach a decision on mooted points, the author has presented both sides, leaving the reader to make his own deductions.

This study by no means pretends to be exhaustive. It is the result, however, of more than 10 years of research and inquiry. It has been a "labor of love", and hopes, where ever possible, not only to distinguish truth from fiction, but also to point out for the historian and the novelist the rich store of material which Bardstown has to offer. Listed are many reliable sources where this history, tradition and folklore may be obtained.

In doing this work the author has received invaluable assistance from many friends in Bardstown and other parts of the State. Without slighting anyone, he would like to mention these especially: Mrs. Agnes M. Spalding, Hon. Ben Johnson, Judge Sam Boldrick, Mrs. Katie Edelen, Mr. John W. Muir and Miss Olive Talbott. He wishes also to thank the illustrators, Brother David, C. F. X., Miss Nora McGee and Mr. Walter H. Kiser. Mr. Kiser's drawings are used with permission of the *Courier-Journal* and *Louisville Times*.

July 25, 1947



SO THEY SAY

I.

... America has a hundred obscure thoroughfares and quiet, almost unnoticed localities where romance has flowered, unselfishness has labored secret and unrewarded, and courage has laid down its life in defense of ideals.

One such storehouse of sentiment is Bardstown, Ky., forty miles outside of Louisville. . . Though it played an important and gracious role in the drama of the Ohio Valley, today it lies almost forgotten, like a bit of faded, helpless nobility in a raucously industrial civilization. It is rich only in its memories, but those are such as few little towns, and no other towns in that section of the country, can boast of. . .

In Bardstown, history was made so long ago that already it is passing into legend. Members of a modern and forgetful generation can pass through Bardstown unconscious of the fact that all around them are houses and places rich in drama; the stately home which set a nation to singing and

BARDSTOWN

weeping; the spot where a great inventor ended his life while others grew rich on his ideas; the blood-soaked ground where gentlemen in ruffled shirts killed each other for no reason at all; and not far away, the stone walls and silence of America's first and almost her only Trappist monastery.

These stories give the community one of the richest backgrounds of any community in America. . .

With these words Mary Day Winn, American journalist, began a feature article in 1930 for the Sunday magazine of the New York *Herald-Tribune*, and later reprinted it in her book, *The Macadam Trail*. The article is typical of paeans which occasionally appear in print when writers are among the thousands of tourists who find their way to Bardstown. Files of Bardstown's newspaper, the *Kentucky Standard*, contain reprints of many.

For instance, after a visit to Bardstown in 1929, the editor of the Versailles, Ky., *Woodford Sun* wrote:

In Bardstown there is a delightful combination of the old and the new. I do not know of another community in the state where there is so much suggestive of the days when Kentucky was young.

Over 20,000 people registered at the Old Kentucky Home last year, and other thousands visited the shrine who failed to register. During the one month of August last year there were 9,284 visitors. They came from everywhere.

In 1926 when Marie, Queen of Roumania, visited the United States her itinerary included luncheon at historic Bardstown and the Old Kentucky Home. When people read of this dinner, many doubtless wondered what attraction a small Kentucky village could possibly hold for a queen. Strangely enough, the names of rulers of three other European countries have long been associated with the town. At St. Joseph's proto-cathedral have hung for more than a century a dozen priceless paintings which history and legend say are gifts from France's Louis Philippe, Sicily's Francis I and the Vatican's Leo XII.

More recently, Bardstown has been called to public attention by annual ceremonies honoring Stephen Collins Foster, who in 1853 published his beautiful song, "My Old Kentucky Home", immortalizing Federal Hill, the home of his cousin John Rowan of Bardstown. And on May 3, 1940, the Stephen Foster commemorative postage stamp was issued not in Pittsburgh, Foster's birthplace but from the Bardstown post office. The attendant celebration which took place at the Old Kentucky Home was featured by a nation-wide, one-hour radio broadcast.

II.

But not all visitors fall under the spell of Bardstown's romance. Some refuse to believe and go away skeptical. For example, John Tasker Howard published a life of Stephen Foster in 1934, expressing serious doubt that Federal Hill was the subject of the song. "My Old Kentucky Home", or that Foster ever visited there.

Time magazine took up the discussion, July 16, 1934, adding other accusations—against the paintings in the cathedral:

Bardstown loves its legends and of these the Foster story is by no means the dearest. That story concerns Louis Philippe's gifts, if indeed he gave Bardstown a Murillo *Virgin*, three van Dycks, two van Eycks, a Rubens. If the collection is authentic, it would easily fetch \$1,000,000.

Louis Philippe's . . . first meeting with Father Flaget probably took place in 1799 in Havana where Louis Philippe was raising money to return to France. Havana's French colony got together 14,000 francs and Father Flaget made the presentation; Louis Philippe thanked him and sailed away in 1800.

A few years later Bardstown became the seat of a Catholic diocese which included Kentucky and Tennessee. Father Flaget, as Bishop, consecrated there the first Catholic Cathedral west of the Alleghenies. Corinthian columns were hewn from nearby forests and the interior was done in rich walnut.

BARDSTOWN

Shortly after the Cathedral was dedicated (1819), Bishop Flaget sent three young priests to Europe to buy "church furniture". Father Nerinckx bought 100 pictures, Father Badin 40. . .

In 1830 Louis Philippe became "citizen king" of France. Sometime between his marriage in 1807 and his flight in 1848, so Bardstown believes, Louis Philippe sent to St. Joseph's cathedral a Murillo, three van Dycks, two van Eycks, a Rubens.

Reason for this lavish gift, it is locally explained, is that Louis Philippe was grateful to Bishop Flaget for presenting the Havana purse of 14,000 francs. Most convincing proof of the gift is a bill introduced in Congress in 1824 and again in 1832 asking that Bishop Flaget be exempt from paying duties on "certain paintings and church furniture presented by the then Duke of Orleans, now King of the French, to the Bishop of Bardstown."

Most prominent doubter of Bardstown's favorite story was the late Young E. Allison of Louisville's historical society, the Filson Club. Historian Allison points: 1. Louis Philippe was notoriously stingy; it is doubtful whether he would so generously remember Bishop Flaget who presented a purse of other people's money. 2. Bishop Flaget called on Louis Philippe in France between 1835 and 1839, was received coldly. 3. The Congressmen who introduced the tariff-exemption bills may unwittingly have been quoting rumor. Besides a report of the Congressmen's speeches there are no government records of Louis Philippe's sending the pictures; the custom's invoice for the articles consigned to Bishop Flaget does not enumerate the articles, name the shipper. It is likely that the St. Joseph's pictures are part of the 140 bought by Fathers Badin and Nerinckx. . .

But whether the story is fact or fiction, Bardstown proudly exhibits its cathedral with the pictures, gift of Louis Philippe, king of France, hanging too high for close inspection, cracking slowly against the rich walnut interior.

Before analysing *Time's* article it would be well to review the American visit of Louis Philippe. He arrived in America on October 21, 1796, and resided quietly in Philadelphia until February 1797, when his younger brothers, "the Princes de Montpensier and Beaujolais" landed. They were entertained by George Washington, who was just then retiring from the presidency.

At Mount Vernon, Washington prepared for the princes an itinerary for a tour by horseback of the American frontier—a journey accomplished during the summer of 1797.

An article in *Century* magazine for September 1901, based on a journal which Louis Philippe kept during his American visit, gave details concerning the duke's stay in Bardstown:

They crossed the Salt River at Pitt's Ford with difficulty, and night found them at the inn of Captain Bean, at Bardstown, then a settlement of about 150 houses and "great expectations".

At Bardstown the duke was taken seriously ill. A traveling show was performing in the place, the first that had ever visited the town. The inn and the sick guest were deserted by the landlady. Nothing could keep her or any of her family from attending the show. . . After a detention of two days, the travelers were off for Louisville.

The "inn of Captain Bean" was not the Talbott House, as is sometimes stated today, but more likely a tavern which stood near the southwest corner of Second and Flaget streets.

Another report of Louis Philippe's illness in Bardstown is given in E. G. Boutmy's *Memoirs of Louis Philippe*:

This was at Bairdstown. On arriving in that town, our travelers found everything in a state of confusion, and were obliged to wait a long time before they could get any attendance. The hostess gave as an excuse that they had a grand theatrical performance—the first of the kind known in the country—and she could not prevent her family from attending it. Without making any allusions to this trifling inconvenience, Louis Philippe has remembered on the throne, the hospitality and attention he had experienced at Bairdstown, and sent to that place a present of a clock for the cathedral.

A later biography by G. N. Wright made mention of the same gift, but was probably quoting Mons. Boutmy. In any event both biographers would seem to

be mistaken, for Maes' *Life of Rev. Charles Nerinckx* quotes from the journal of Father Nerinckx:

I might have told you how they managed to build the steeple of the Bardstown cathedral. The funds were exhausted, but the architect, who gave proof of the most ardent zeal for the completion of his work, bethought himself of a new plan to raise the necessary funds. The clock which I brought from Ninove, in Flanders, and which is truly a wonderful timepiece, suggested to him the means of exciting the people to renewed exertions. He placed it in the front wall of the church, the little silver-toned bells striking the hours. The people acknowledged that so wonderful a clock should adorn the steeple, and they consented to a subscription, which realized enough to complete the work.¹

It was after Louis Philippe's frontier-tour that he went to Cuba where his poverty was relieved by the 14,000 franc gift.

III.

Now to discuss the doubts of *Time*, Young E. Allison and John Tasker Howard.

Time is inaccurate on several minor counts: 1. The list of paintings consists of 4 van Dycks and 1 van Eyck, instead of "three van Dycks and two van Eycks". 2. Louis Philippe was married in 1809, not 1807, to Maria Amelia, daughter of the king of Naples. 3. *Time's* date for the gift, "between 1807-1848" is also facetious; obviously the paintings were given before 1824 or 1832 when the two tax-exemption bills were introduced in Congress. 4. Then there is the matter of the Bishop sending "three young priests to Europe to *buy* church furniture." In the first place, Bishop Flaget sent only Father Nerinckx and Father Chabrat, the former to Belgium, the latter to France. Furthermore, neither Father Nerinckx nor Father Badin, the third of the

¹ This clock is now in the library at the University of Notre Dame. It was presented by the late John M. Cooney, who in 1916 had received it as a gift from Rev. C. J. O'Connell, then dean of the cathedral at Bardstown.

supposed group, were "young priests"; the one was 59, the other 52. But Father Badin was not sent to Europe by the Bishop; he returned to his native France of his own accord, as the result of a falling-out with the Bishop. It is also incomprehensible that Bishop Flaget could buy church furniture, since in 1821 Father Badin referred to him as "the poorest Bishop in the Christian world". Had *Time's* reporter stated that the Bishop sent priests to Europe *to beg*, he would have been nearer the truth. 5. Finally, there is that mean concluding implication in *Time's* summary, that the paintings hang too high for close security. The truth is, the paintings are hanging in the natural and only possible place they can be hung—above the Stations of the Cross on the side walls, and one above and one on either side of the main altar in the sanctuary. After all, it is a church, not an art gallery. Furthermore, a great deal of money was spent 20 years ago, installing spotlights so that the paintings should have the best possible lighting.

The *Time* indictment is based on an article, "The Curious Legend of Louis Philippe" by Young E. Allison, printed in 1925 in the *Illinois Catholic Historical Review*. Allison was not a bigot; he simply believed that the paintings were brought back from Europe by Father Nerinckx. It is worth remarking that Father Martin J. Spalding, later Bishop of Louisville and Archbishop of Baltimore, does not either in his biography of Bishop Flaget or in his *Sketches of Early Catholic Missions in Kentucky* ever state that the paintings came from Louis Philippe. He does say:

St. Joseph's is provided with a large bell, procured from France by the present Coadjutor Bishop of the Diocese (Fr. Chabrat).²

² Webb's *Centenary of Catholicity in Kentucky* quotes a letter from Fr. Badin (Paris, Sept. 5, 1823) to Fr. Chabrat: "It appears to me you have grown fond of noise since you bought the *gros bourdon* for the Cathedral. Let me tell you that the sound of that bell is echoed even in Paris, where I lately saw Mr. Rousand. He tells me you have paid dearly for it, on

An organ and two superb paintings, the one representing the Crucifixion, and the other, the Conversion of William Duke of Brienne by St. Bernard, were placed in the church. They had been procured from Belgium by the venerable M. Nerinckx, and were by him presented to the Bishop for the new cathedral. To these paintings were subsequently added several others which had been presented to the Bishop by the King of Naples, and the Sovereign Pontiff, Leo XII.

The cathedral was also provided with rich suits of vestments, golden candlesticks, a golden tabernacle, and other splendid ornaments, presented to the Bishop by the present King and Queen of the French.

Archbishop Spalding was closely associated with Bishop Flaget and his statement is reliable. Even today five of the pictures (among which are those regarded as most valuable) bear on the frames the inscription: "*Ex dono Franciscus I utriusque Sicilae Rex*". Francis I, king of both Sicilies, was the brother-in-law of Louis Philippe. That Louis really gave something to the cathedral is verified by Bishop Spalding, and it seems likely that as years passed his name was associated with the whole gift.

When the seat of the diocese was changed from Bardstown to Louisville in 1841, many of the gifts were taken away, but after much discussion, most of them were returned. Still in Bardstown on display are the tabernacle and vestments; over the main altar is Father Nerinckx's gift, van Bree's Crucifixion, and on the side walls the five paintings from Francis I and Pope Leo XII.

Defending the Louis Philippe tradition have been Father W. D. Pike former rector of the cathedral and U. S. Congressman Ben Johnson. In 1926 Father Pike

account of the carriage from Lyons to Bordeaux. I am mistaken in saying that you paid. It appears probable enough that it will fall to my lot to discharge that debt, or a part of it. Well, it will be no hardship, but a pleasure to me."

This bell is sometimes mistakenly included in the gifts of Louis Philippe.

answered Mr. Allison's article in the same Illinois publication. He contended that the evidence was "meagre but unquestionable", insisting strongly that to doubt the tradition was to doubt the integrity of a holy man like Bishop Flaget.

Hon. Ben Johnson bases his opinion on material he had collected while in Congress. In 1924 he published in a private edition, a book containing photostats and copies of all extant government records to prove that the duke was the donor.

Mr. Johnson's research shows that Bishop Flaget sought tax-relief for two shipments of church furniture and paintings. The first shipment arrived in New York, the second in New Orleans.

The *Journal of the House of Representatives*, for December 30, 1824, states:

Mr. Moore presented a petition of Benedict Joseph Flaget, Bishop of the Roman Apostolical Church of the diocese of Bardstown, in the State of Kentucky, praying that the duties chargeable by law on some rich church furniture, presented to the petitioner by his grace the Duke of Orleans, at Lyons, France, for the sole use of the church in which he exercises his religious functions, may be remitted.

As Mr. Johnson's research discovers, the bill of lading for this shipment was destroyed in 1896: "By an act of Congress all papers in the Customs House in New York, of date prior to 1896, were destroyed as useless papers."

The second petition was urged by Charles A. Wickliffe of Bardstown, Representative from Kentucky. It is recorded in *Gale and Scaton's Register of Debates in Congress* for March 19, 1832:

The bill for the relief of Benedict Joseph Flaget was read for the third time. The bill authorized the remission of duties on certain paintings and church furniture, presented by the King of the French to the Catholic Bishop of Bardstown, Kentucky. . . . The duties on such articles have been remitted heretofore by the liberality of Congress. The articles upon which duties have been paid, and which the bill

contemplates to refund, consist of paintings and other articles of church furniture, presented some years since by the Duke of Orleans, now King of the French, to the Bishop of Bardstown. He could not refuse to accept the offering; by accepting, however, he had to pay the duties which our revenue laws impose upon articles imported from abroad. These articles would not have been purchased and imported. They are specimens of art and taste, designed as ornaments to the house of public worship.

This petition was successful. Refund of \$144.82 was made March 31, 1834, and the bill of lading, dated 27 October 1827, showed that "4 boxes of paintings" were included.

IV.

John Tasker Howard's doubts concerning Stephen Foster and Bardstown were repeated before the Filson Club in Louisville, February 4, 1946, by Fletcher Hodges, Jr. It brought forth a shower of letters to the *Courier-Journal*, just as Mr. Howard's biography of Foster did in 1934.

Since there are no known newspapers of Bardstown during the years 1851-52-53, when the song was written, which might testify to his visits in Bardstown and that Federal Hill was actually the inspiration of the song, tradition and reliable testimony must be relied on for evidence.

The tradition is both strong and reliable. No one in Bardstown ever doubted it—and everybody knew it was so—until Mr. Howard questioned the fact. Foster's own family has verified it; there are people still living in Bardstown who have personally heard Mrs. Madge Rowan Frost tell of the Foster visits. Mrs. Frost last mistress of Federal Hill sold the home to the State of Kentucky in 1922, shortly before her death.

Typical of the letters which appeared in the *Courier-Journal* recently challenging Mr. Hodges' speech is the following from Lucien V. Rule of Goshen, Ky., who

quotes as testimony, an esteemed negro poet and educator of the State, Joseph Seaman Cotter:

Circumstances prevented my hearing the address of Fletcher Hodges, Jr., before the Filson Club, February 4. The press reports indicated his doubts as to the visits of Stephen Collins Foster to the Rowan home in Bardstown and that Foster actually did draw inspiration for "My Old Kentucky Home" at the place immortalized by it. But there is a Kentucky poet yet living who was born and reared in the Foster tradition, as Kentuckians believe it and love it, and his testimony is invaluable. I refer to Joseph Seaman Cotter.

He told me last Sunday afternoon that his mother, born in 1840, was a maid in the Rowan family for years during the Foster period. She told her son about Foster's visits to the Rowan home and family, as she herself remembered and as the Rowans recounted in her hearing. She was a deeply musical, poetical woman, and her son never heard anything to the contrary that Foster got his inspiration and wrote this great folk song as tradition has it.

Mr. Cotter stated further that in a talk with the Louisville poet and song writer, Will S. Hays, Mr. Hays told him of meeting Foster personally going to and returning from a visit to the Rowans at Bardstown. Mr. Hays was thoroughly alert to Foster's genius and fame, and his testimony seems credible and decisive.

Will S. Hays' daughter, Mrs. Mattie Belle Hays Samuels, wrote to the same paper, March 17, 1946, verifying Mr. Cotters story:

With pleasure I send you the story as told me by my father, Will S. Hays, of his first meeting with Stephen Collins Foster. Foster was 11 years older than Mr. Hays, who at that time was about 20, and beginning his career as amanuensis to George D. Prentice, editor of the *Louisville Daily Journal*, later the *Courier-Journal*.

One afternoon a man standing at Third and Green asked my father where the stage coach left for Bardstown. Mr. Hays directed him and walked with him to the Station. The man, who turned out to be Mr. Foster, stated he was going to the Rowan home.

In after years Mr. Hays was also a guest there frequently. The Rowan family was well known for its hospitality and I

have no doubt Mr. Foster and Mr. Hays renewed often an acquaintance begun so incidentally, which was the only one I knew of and always remembered.

Time, Young E. Allison and John Tasker Howard created no little indignation in Bardstown. However, thoughtless people in the town should receive a great deal of the blame. By exaggerating the truth they have invited suspicion in the minds of careful students. In other chapters of this book, particularly the one on folklore, there will be occasion to say more about these exaggerations. No later than October 9, 1941, Hon. Ben Johnson, one of Bardstown's best informed citizens, complained in a letter to the *Kentucky Standard*:

. . . May I say there is scarcely any way to measure incorrect history about Bardstown because there has been so much, and the article just referred to (concerning the Talbott House) adds and adds and adds to incorrect history. Almost unlimited imaginary history has been written about "My Old Kentucky Home", and no little has been written and told relative to Bardstown itself . . .



OLD COURT SQUARE

PLANTING AND CULTIVATION

I.

In order to realize the very soul of the inspiration that entered into the composition of "My Old Kentucky Home", we must seek beyond music and poetry. These are merely the forms and colors used to set forth the pageantry and the culmination of a great period in American history which preceded the song. From the winning of the struggle for independence down to the clash of war between states, the village of Bardstown, Nelson county, in Kentucky had a national and state importance enormously out of proportion to its size. It was the center of a marked community built up in the West out of strange ingredients that nevertheless were soon compounded into great living strength and force.

That little town exercised profound influence throughout the West upon religion, politics, education and all social affairs. There had assembled strong men with strong ambitions and the will to promote them. There grew up and flourished a public life and private society so strange, so remote from these days, that unless the picture is studied we shall not understand the significance of the song and the genre of beauty it sets forth of that long time ago which yet was only yesterday.—*Young E. Allison*

It is sometimes said that the present site of Bardstown and its vicinity was surveyed as early as 1775, but the land grant bearing the signature of Patrick Henry, governor of Virginia, was not issued until 1785. John W. Muir of Bardstown owns an attested copy of this grant:

Patrick Henry esq. Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia to all to whom these presents shall come, greetings:

Know ye, That by virtue and in consideration of a pre-emption Treasury warrant No. 801 and issued the 26th day of April 1780 unto David Bard and John C. Owings. . . there is granted by the said Commonwealth; unto the said David Bard and John C. Owings a certain tract or parcel of land, containing one thousand acres by survey bearing date the 20th day of March 1784 lying and being in the county of Jefferson including Bardstown.. .—Richmond, 21 July 1785—*Patrick Henry*

It is worth noting that both David Bard and John Cockey Owings owned the land on which Bardstown stands. "Minutes of the Board of Trustees of Bardstown," for December 7, 1799, and *Kentucky Reports* for 1831 affirm the same fact.

David Bard was a Pennsylvanian. Records do not show that he ever lived in Nelson county, but his brother William Bard came in 1780 to make the location, and to supervise the management and disposal of the land.

The first settlement of 33 persons was made in 1780. The town was hewn from the forest and called Salem. When William Bard, in the name of his brother David, granted two acres of ground for the erection of a courthouse, jail and other public buildings, September 30, 1785, the town was renamed for its benefactor and called Baird's Town—the supposed spelling of the Bard family name. However, when the town was incorporated in 1788 by an act of the Virginia Legislature, it became definitely Bardstown, at William Bard's petition.

Hon. Ben Johnson owns an old plat of Bardstown and older ones are contained in Nelson County Court

Deed Book 7. John Filson's *Discovery, Settlement and Present State of Kentucky* (1793) included "Baird's Town" on "the road from Philadelphia to the Falls of the Ohio (Louisville) by land." It was placed 781 miles from Philadelphia and 45 miles from Louisville.

The town was one of the earliest in the state. For a time it was a rival to Louisville and Lexington, and the first federal census (1790) gave Bardstown 216 inhabitants, 16 more than Louisville.

Bardstown is located on the extreme western edge of the blue grass section of the State. It is the county seat of Nelson, fourth county created by Virginia (1784), and takes its name from Gen. Thomas Nelson, Revolutionary general, signer of the Declaration of Independence and Governor of Virginia. Pioneers of the town came from Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia.

Almost from the first, Bardstown held a position in national affairs out of all proportion to its size. Though located in what was at the time a frontier community, it developed a life far removed from the gun-toting, ram-paging settlements with which early days in Kentucky are usually associated.

Schools were opened "prior to 1782", at which date Bardstown Grammar School was in progress with a Mr. Shackleford as teacher. In 1786 the name was changed to Salem Academy, with Dr. James Priestly, a Presbyterian, as master. Though often thought to have been located on the public square, *Deed Book 5* (page 478) would seem to indicate that the schoolhouse was somewhere on the present Burr Crume property in northeast Bardstown near the railroad. This deed for September 12, 1799 states that Walter Beall had given the land to the trustees of the Academy:

. . . one acre and a half and twenty perches of land situated in the said boundary of Nelson and adjoining to the Bairdstown preemption to include the said Seminary and to be for the sole use thereof beginning at the preemption line . . .

Newspaper advertisements show that early in the 19th century several other schools flourished. These include Old Town Academy, Female Institute, Nazareth, St. Thomas Seminary and St. Joseph College. The last three, along with Salem Academy, became famous throughout the South.

The atmosphere created by Bardstown's educational facilities and the many noted jurists, lawyers, scholars and churchmen earned for the town the title of "Athens of the West".

Young E. Allison noted in his "Chapter of Trappist History in Kentucky":

Nelson county was then a place of glamour to the world. It had contained the fabled city of Lystra and the mythical Catholic land-holding paradise of 120,000 acres, both originating in England and Wales and operated to fleece foreigners abroad—swindle schemes modeled on Law's Mississippi Bubble in France. They were the Kentucky Bubble. No city of Lystra was ever built, no colonists came to people the 120,000 acres, except to find themselves with no title to the land.

Bardstown, the capital seat, was even then the wonder town of the new West, although a village of probably not more than a 1,000 souls. It had not yet been sidetracked for river towns by the new-fangled steamboats. It was peopled from Virginia, Pennsylvania, with a streak of New Jersey and New York adventurers. It seethed with keen talents at law, politics, finance and business, and the air was filled with partisan or philosophic dreams of governmental perfection. Some had grown rich in land speculation and everybody was tapping the riches of nature with feverish hands. Log houses were beginning to vanish and frame and brick homes and stores were multiplying. Some of them remain today, evidences of their solidity and of the wealth that poured in and was poured out.

II.

May 12, 1788. I arrived at Bardstown a little fatigued in consequence of our having made 30 miles today. I can say nothing of the town; it is night, and I put off till tomorrow speaking to you about it. The road is broad and quite

pretty; had it not rained so long I believe it would have been charming. The settlements are quite distant from one another and some are very pretty. . . 13th. The town of Bardstown is not very large; there are, however, two or three stone houses and a court-house now building, which will be handsome and large and must cost very dear. I judge from this that the people of the place love lawsuits.
Dr. Saugrain's Note-Booke, p.14.

Aside from such journals as Louis Philippe's and Dr. Saugrain's just noted, most interesting and most likely accurate study of early Bardstown and its people can be gleaned through the medium of old court records and newspaper advertisements of the period.

Engrossing are the "Minutes of the Board of Trustees of Bardstown, Kentucky". They comprise a 40-page document, covering from October 1789 to April 1827. Among other information, they list Bardstown lot holders and prices paid; name the old citizens and trustees; mention newspapers, houses and taverns; and outline peculiar town regulations such as the following:

Ordered that no public exhibition or show shall be made in this town until a board of Trustees shall be called and held for the purpose of levying a tax on those who wish to show or exhibit any sight in the said town. (July 27, 1805)

There is record of a lion, an elephant, and a leopard being shown at different times; also of a display of wax figures. Other regulations were leveled more directly at the citizens themselves:

Ordered that the Commissioner for assessing property both real and personal in Bardstown estimate and value the following species, to wit. Houses and lots, Negroes, horses, cattle and stores.

Ordered that the clerk advertise at the public houses in this town that any person who shall be guilty of running or racing horses in the streets, alleys and highways of said town or of throwing bullets or shooting at marks or leaving rubbish or slopping the streets or alleys shall be fined agreeable to an act to reduce to one the several acts concerning Bardstown in Nelson County. (April 31, 1803)

Again:

Ordered that John Grimes be directed by the Clerk of the Board to remove the plank off the public ground which he put there and it is further ordered that no person be suffered to dry plank by fire on the public ground or streets within this town. (June 20, 1795)

Newspaper advertisements often abound in human interest. The three following items are taken from the March 8, 1808 issue of *Candid News* of Bardstown:

I will be greatly obliged to my acquaintances, to return my book which they have borrowed. Any person having books belonging to me, in their possession, will have honesty enough to return them. I will not lend my books.—Wm. P. Duvall.

Whereas, my wife Sarah has absconded, this therefore to forewarn all persons from trusting her on my account, either for herself or child, as I am resolved to pay no debt of her contracting or any expenses attending her child. William Atherton.

The subscriber intending to start to Baltimore about the first of May next, requests all those in any wise indebted, to pay up by that time, or beware of consequences.—Adam Anthony N.B. Those who owe whiskey will please bring it forward immediately.

Other typical advertisements include notices on new books, stationary, drygoods, refreshment houses, strayed livestock, runaway slaves, hotels, schools, market prices, transportation and lotteries. First issue of the *Western Herald*, July 6, 1825, for example, advertises a lottery by "the Seventh Class of Grand Masonic Hall", offering \$5,000 in prizes; tickets on sale "by John Roberts at the Post Office."

Also listed are letters "remaining in the Post Office on the 1st day of July 1825". Included are these familiar names: Bishop Flaget, W. P. Duvall, A. W. Hynes, W. H. Wickliffe, McManus & McKeekin (grocers), and Joseph Haseltine (procurator at St. Joseph College).

Spring issues of the *Catholic Advocate* for 1836 give some idea of the type of clothing in demand. The announcement is from "Charles McManus, merchant":

Just received from Philadelphia a small supply of blue, black and brown summer clothes; roan Cassimeres, twilled Stormants; stripped Jeans, mixed cotton Jeans; summer Stocks; palm-leaf Hats; black seal-skin Caps; dark and light calicoes, new patterns; plain Tuscan Bonnetts, Lace do do, Misses' do do, Split straw do, Leghorn Braid do, Bands.

Quotation of Louisville market prices for June 25, 1836, disclose that cotton yarns, assorted, sold at 17c; "Tobacco—Prime we have reduced to \$6.00 to \$6.50; second are \$4.00 to 4.50; and common \$3.00 to 3.50." Bagging is quoted at 26c to 27c; bale rope, 11c to 12½c. "Sugar, dull 12c to 12½; Flour, \$4.75 to \$5.00." Whiskey sold at 29c to 31c a gallon.

Equally surprising is the variety of refreshments offered in 1839 at a soda-fountain on "Main Street, near the Smiley House." It includes ice creams, ices and cordials in several flavors.

In the same year a bath house was opened on Main Street. "On Tuesdays it is reserved exclusively for women. A Soda fountain has also been installed," states the *Catholic Advocate*.

A good many details on the mode of professional transportation in 1836 are furnished in the following advertisement:

BARDSTOWN AND LOUISVILLE ACCOMMODATION STAGE

George Penny's Stage will leave Bardstown on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays—and Louisville on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, continuing throughout the season. He has good drivers, good teams, good stages. The time of leaving will be regulated to suit passengers. The passenger at Bardstown will enter at Chapman's Hotel.¹

¹ Chapman's Hotel is the present Talbott House.

Price of Passage \$3.00

The Stage will call at Nazareth when required by passengers. Baggage received at the risk of the owner.

In 1839, W. A. Timpson announced in the *Catholic Advocate* that he was conducting an exchange office "where uncurrent money is bought and sold at lowest prices." But notice in the *Western Herald* for May 10, 1826, offers a simpler solution to the problem of legal tender:

The subscriber has on hand a quantity of Windsor Chairs of a good quality which he will sell at a fair specie price, either for cash or whiskey. Persons wishing to purchase, can call on either the subscriber or Mr. Lewis Evans, who manufactures them in the shop formerly occupied by William Hahn as a chair and wheel shop.

Issues of the *Catholic Advocate* in the 1830's frequently contain notices of activities at Bardstown's schools—public examinations, entertainments, oratorical contests.

Even farmers were organized, as suggested by the following announcement in the same publication for June 1, 1839:

All members of the Nelson County Agricultural Society are requested to attend the annual meeting of the said Society in Bloomfield, on the second Saturday of June.

Each issue of the *Advocate* carries a list of new books on sale by local merchants and by the New York Catholic Periodical Library of John Doyle. In 1836, B. J. Webb, editor of the *Advocate*, reveals that he is opening a circulating library. On June 10 of the following year, the notification appears that a new "weekly literary, political and commercial paper, *The Adventurer*" will be "published at Bardstown by Mr. James D. Nourse and Mr. B. J. Webb."

Slaves and indentured servants come in for a share of notice:

Run away from the subscriber, living in Springfield, Washington county; on the 25th day of December 1836, Jonathan Melburn, an indentured apprentice to the Tanning and Currying business, about 15 years old, 5 ft. high. One cent reward will be given for his apprehension and delivery to me at Springfield. All persons are hereby forewarned not to harbor or employ him at the peril of the law.—*John C. Riley*

In almost any issue of the papers of the period can be found notices like the following from the *Catholic Advocate*, April 1, 1837:

STOP THE RUNAWAY

Absconded from my house, in Marion county, Ky., on Saturday the 25th inst., a bright mulatto boy named Tom, about 18 or 20 years old, 5 ft. 7 or 8 inches high; pretty well proportioned and by a careless observer might be mistaken for a white person. His hair pretty straight, skin quite soft for a person used to farming; has prominent reddish mole on one cheek, which one not recollected; has no beard of consequence; has rather subdued look when spoken to. He had on a black fur hat nearly new, a pair of black corded pantaloons, and either blue or brown frock coat. . I believe he intended making his escape probably by Louisville or some other point on the Ohio river to Indiana, or he may have gone to the neighborhood of Mumfordsville, as he was raised there. \$20 if taken in Marion county, \$50 if taken in Kentucky, or \$100 if taken out of the State, will be given for his apprehension, if confined in any jail so that I get him again.—*John Lancaster, Jr.*

Of quite a different tone is a communication in the same paper, January 26, 1839, and several succeeding weeks:

I have for sale a valuable FEMALE SLAVE with 3 MALE CHILDREN. I wish to dispose of them to some person living near Bardstown, as the woman's husband lives near there. I am about to remove to Louisville, and am unwilling to separate her from her husband. I would prefer selling them to a Catholic. Apply at my residence in Fairfield, Nelson county, Ky.,—*Michael J. O'Callaghan*

III

In the 1890's, Mr. W. F. McGill, an old resident

of Bardstwon, wrote a lengthy letter to the *Bardstown Record* giving much valuable information on early citizens and speaking out plainly his views. Portions of the letter follow:

As I am the sole survivor of the male population of 70 years ago, I will give you such facts as come within my own knowledge since 1822, and other facts I may state as coming from older citizens of the place, which will show to your readers that for the past 20 years they have been periodically entertained, both by speakers and writers, giving credit to men for the renown of the place, who instead of being any advantage to the commercial and mechanical prosperity of the town, were a disadvantage.

This town from 1822 to 1860 was one of the principal manufacturing towns of the State. At that day the town proper extended from Grave street south to Chestnut north; extended from First (Front street) on the east to Fifth on the west. North of Chestnut street in 1822 the only houses were those at present occupied by William Hart (northeast corner of Second and Chestnut), Mr. Eugene Wilson's (east side of Second between Chestnut and Beall), Charles Howell's (the late residence of Matthew Dupin), and Mrs. Robert Hackley's two-story frame (directly across from the Sunken Garden). *The first two brick houses built in the place were Dr. Newton's on the corner of Third and Chestnut* (where the Gulf Station is located); *and Mr. Horine's house, west of Mrs. Sharp's* (Mrs. Sharp's is the present K of C home; Horine's, the house occupied by John A. Rodman.)

A four-page enumeration of early merchants and craftsmen follows, with the location of each business and the number of hands employed. Chief of these are 7 blacksmiths, wagon and carriage makers; 4 cabinet makers; 12 saddlers, shoemakers and tanners; 3 carpenters and builders; 2 silversmiths; 2 coppersmiths and tinnerns; 2 gunsmiths; a nail factory; 3 hat shops; 3 hotels; 6 tailors; 6 "grog-shops"; 10 grocery - and - dry-goods stores; an apothecary; a butcher, "who slaughtered from 5 to 10 thousand hogs a year"; a cotton factory; a wheelwright and chairmaker; and 3 mills, one of which (Keith's) was "for spinning cotton and carding wool

rolls" and "the first in the place to put in a steam engine." Mr. McGill continues:

As I remarked above, the periodical spread-eagle orators who come to us fresh hatched from the adjoining counties, from the magistrate's court, to spread their wings and air their plumage, do not give any credit to the men named above, but inform our young citizens that we are indebted for the building up of this grand old town to the Hardins, Wickliffes, Rowans and Chapezes. . . I deny it and say that these four men, although of the great intellects of the day, were a deadweight upon the commercial building up of this town. Although being the wealthiest among us, with one exception, they never paid a dollar of taxes into the town treasury or had one brick laid to beautify its appearance. The one excepted (John Rowan) owned a few vacant lots, and to secure his debt for money loaned or fees due him, he became possessed of two houses, which he sold the first favorable opportunity.

As their successors in the legal profession we have some 10, all of whom, save two, have bought or built fine residences in the town, and the oldest, Jasper W. Muir, and nearly the youngest among them, Ben Johnson, pay more taxes into the treasury each year than was paid by the whole four in their lives.

Hon. John Rowan owned 400 feet of ground lying between Chestnut and Beall streets, the handsomest building lot in the town, which he would neither sell nor build upon, and which I bought after his death, and upon which now stand three handsome brick residences (one of these, the Tom Smith residence, was Mr. McGill's home), two of which I built myself. He forced our citizens who needed homes to build beyond Beall street to the present limits of the town, which was entirely built up before his death.

I am satisfied if it had not been for the Hon. Ben Hardin, our town, instead of being a village of 1800, would now be a thriving city of five or six thousand. As it was, through the powerful influence he held over the voters of this county, the main stem of the L & N railroad did not pass through our town. If it had, there is no question but we would have had the Cincinnati and Lexington railroad passing through here to Elizabethtown and Paducah.

I propose to give you the family names of the builders of this town, particularly those who built brick houses long years ago. . . I will commence with some of my earliest

recollections: Beall, Doom, McMeekin, Mattingly, Smith, Hite, Black, Sweets, Aud, Wright, Cambron, Nicholson, Nourse, Hayden, Harrison, Hynes, Queen, McManus, Wilson, Robertson, Elder, Duncan, Carpenter, Carothers, Ellis, Cox, McGill, Rogers, Willett, Payne, McQuown, McCown, Moore, Hart, Lithicum, Shadburne, Tucker, Howell, Kelley, Bard, Watts, Spalding, Sisco, McIsaac, Russell, Jones, Shader, Brown, Matthews.

These men needed no 3 F's attached to their names to establish their royalty. There may be others whom I have forgotten, and many of those named above have built several houses. I have forgotten, too, the names of the builders of the older brick houses. . . —W. F. McGill

IV

The Civil War found Bardstown, like the rest of Kentucky, divided in its loyalty. Fortunes were lost in both Union and Confederate causes. The town itself was the scene of at least three engagements, *Confederate Veteran* listing skirmishes on October 4, 1862; July 5, 1863; and August 1, 1864.

Today Bardstown's chief sources of income are its distilleries and tourist trade attracted by the town's historical show places.

Quality of Bardstown's whiskey makes its the state's distillery center. Kentucky is reputed preeminent for its bourbon, and early maps of Nelson county are dotted as thickly by distilleries as by towns. The supplement of the *Nelson County Record*, January 1, 1896, gave the history of 23 distilleries within the bounds of the county, eight of which may be considered as Bardstown's.

Old names which made Bardstown whiskey famous include Early Times, Jim Beam, Henry Sutherland, T. W. Samuels, Tom Moore, Heavenhill, Greenbrier, Lancaster, Walker, and Mattingly and Moore. Most of these brands are still familiar, but local families no longer own the distilleries.

Before the opening of the 19th century and intermittently for the next 50 years, Bardstown had horse

racing. The Beall residence on south Main street, now owned by Henry Muir, was encircled by a course where organized racing was held.

Earliest record of racing is offered by the following notice in the *Kentucky Gazette*, October 4, 1797:

BAIRDSTOWN RACES

Will commence on the third Wednesday in October next, and will continue Thursday and Friday, free for any horse, mare or gelding.—The first day, the three mile heats, second day two mile heats, and the last day one mile heats.

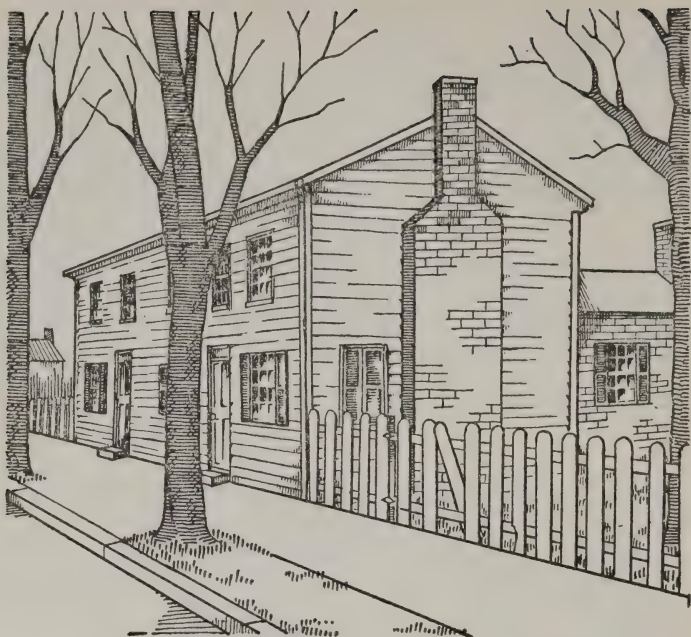
There is \$150 subscribed now. The rules of the Jockey Club of the state are to be observed in these races.

September 2, 1797

On September 28, 1842, a fall meeting lasting four days was announced by the Jockey Club in the *Bardstown Gazette*. The notice gave the number of races, the amount of purses, and was signed by "T. L. Lithicum, Secretary".

Show horses were also raised at Bardstown's Kenmore Farm, across the road from Federal Hill. Its best trotter was Beau Brummel 800, whose show record included "nearly 100 victories, with few defeats."

Nelson County Record 1896 supplement recalled two other local steeds, naming "old Star Denmark the finest saddle horse this state ever produced" and adding that Belle of Nelson "has to her credit the fastest record of any race mare in America."



INN OF THE SEVEN STARS

OLD HOUSES

I.

Though an isolated settlement of Virginia, Bardstown became the pioneer cultural center of the new West. . . Communication was slow. . . and Kentucky culture became provincial, a characteristic aspect of social development in the history of the state. Since the home has been the cultural center, much of Kentucky's history is mirrored in its domestic architecture.

—*Thomas D. Clark's History of Kentucky, p. 365*

Fine homes of Bardstown fall into two groups, "Dominion" Georgian and Greek Revival. The former are broad, square or rectangular brick structures with no porticos but wide beautiful doorways often surmounted by a fan-shape window. Of this type the best examples in Bardstown are Wickland and Federal Hill.

Examples of Greek Revival, with broad porticos and

Corinthian columns, are the T. W. Samuels and Jasper Muir homes on Main street.

Both types have brought admiration from modern architects, Rexford Newcomb commenting in 1940 in *Old Kentucky Architecture* that Bardstown "has fine examples of both Colonial and Greek Revival periods".

Pencil Points for May 1940, a magazine published by the American Institute of Architects, advises readers:

The little old houses of Georgian and Federal period (1786-1825) have a distinctive charm arising from their simplicity, their proportions and their materials. . . The side streets of Bardstown seem to contain a wealth of such material worth seeking out.

March 10, 1946 issue of the *Courier-Journal* Sunday magazine carries a picture-story and study of Bardstown stairways, explaining:

The best of Southern architecture always has been famous for its graceful stairways—stairways that seem to soar up and up without any visible means of support. And perhaps no other town of comparable size in the country has so many fine examples of this form of building cunning as Bardstown. They're circular and rectangular, wooden and iron—they're whatever the connoisseur desires. All were delicately wrought many years ago, but as sturdy today as then. Some are almost 130 years old.

Other features of the old homes are high-ceiling rooms, windowfacings, copings, baseboards and paneling. Original flooring is either poplar, white or blue ash of considerable thickness. Banisters and doors are cherry or walnut; the hand-carved mantles are a tribute to Bardstown's early cabinet-makers.

Early architects responsible for the beauty of these houses include John Rogers, whose most imposing monument is St. Joseph's cathedral; Samuel Beall, who is said to have constructed St. Joseph's College; and Colonel James Marshall Brown.

Other and later builders are Alex Moore, George Willett, Baker Smith and Arthur Graham.

Early cabinet-makers listed by W. F. McGill in a letter about old Bardstown include Steve Cameron, Robert Abel, Tom Morgan, William McQuown, and Jonathan and Felix Rogers. The Rogers' designed and made especially fine furniture, some of which still adorns many imposing Kentucky homes.

II.

Federal Hill, home of the Rowan family, ranks first among Bardstown's homes, not because it is the most beautiful, but because it is one of the oldest and best preserved, and the only one fortunate enough to have been the subject of a song.

It has been erroneously stated on occasions that the bricks of Federal Hill were imported from England. They were burned right on the property, as affirmed by Kentucky geologist Willard Rouse Jillson, who has stated that not only did early settlers find the vicinity rich in natural building woods, such as oak, beech, ash, poplar, hickory and walnut, but also stone and "the finest brick clay. . . in abundance with an excellent quality of limestone."

On the testimony of the grandfather of J. W. Borders, slave boss of John Rowan, the first house built on Federal Hill was destroyed by fire. It was "a log structure with stone foundation upon which the west side of the present mansion probably stands."

Rivalling Federal Hill in history—and certainly from the standpoint of beauty—is Wickland, known today as the home of three governors, two of Kentucky, one of Louisiana. Charles Anderson Wickliffe, with his young wife, Margaret Crepps, moved from Springfield, Ky., to Bardstown in 1813, and four years later built the old mansion. Magnificently furnished it has long been a show place, visitors being received by owners Dr. and Mrs. Walter Wright.

Of the home, Wilhelmine Franke wrote for the *Louisville Courier Journal*, July 20, 1936:

Nowhere in Kentucky does there exist an example of domestic architecture that more faithfully embodies the Georgian ideals of perfect proportions and elegance tempered with restraint, than Wickland. . . There is an informal and graceful piling up of architectural units to the main mass which produces a well-balanced three-part composition.

Another unusual home, Villa Lawn at the south end of Main street, is linked with the Wickliffe family. It was built about 1798 by Walter Beall and his son Samuel, who were architects. Walter Beall, a local merchant as early as 1788, was "a man of wealth, a large landholder" who by 1825 had fallen into bad financial straits, when the place passed into the hands of Nathaniel Wickliffe. Many years later, the Wickliffes conveyed the house to Jasper W. Muir, father of Henry Muir, the present owner. It is this home which is circled by the ancient race track.

Unique in construction, Villa Lawn is two stories in front, a story and a half at the rear. A large fish pond was constructed on the roof, but persistent leakage caused the pond to be converted into a flower garden.

There are many more interesting homes in Bardstown, among them Sunken Gardens, Solitude, and Edgewood, the old Ben Hardin place; besides the residences of Jim Beam, Lee McClain, Mrs. Kate Grigsby, Louis Seeger, Ben Johnson, Mrs. Lucy Smith and Mrs. John Newman.

III.

There seems to be more confusion, misunderstanding and false history concerning Bardstown's inns than on any other subject connected with the town. Heading the list is the remarkable old Talbott House which has been conducted as a public house for well over 100 years. Most extravagant claim for the Talbott House is that it was built in 1779.

Hon. Ben Johnson has pointed out: 1. Collins' *History of Kentucky* avers that the first stone house in Kentucky was built in 1786. 2. Bardstown was not settled until 1780. 3. Stonemason Thomas Metcalfe, later governor of Kentucky, worked on the construction of the house. He was not born until 1780.

It would be interesting to know how the "1779" claim originated. One possible solution may be tied in with the following passage from the "Minutes of the Trustees of Bardstown":

At a Board of Trustees held at the Stone House Tavern in Bardstown on Saturday the 24th day of June 1797. Present; Andrew Hynes, Walter Beall, Michael Campbell, Benjamin Grayson, Gentlemen. Andrew Hynes, Gentleman in the chair.

It will be noticed that the date is 1797; the last two numbers could easily been confused and reversed by a person relying on memory in repeating the date. It is possible, too, that Andrew Hynes may have been presumed the proprietor of the "Stone House Tavern" because he was "in the chair"; and anyone with a casual knowledge of Bardstown history would have known that the Talbott House was once known as the "Hynes House".

However, there are several false assumptions here: 1. Andrew Hynes did not own the "Hynes House", nor was the inn named after him, but after William R. Hynes, his nephew, who did own the house and probably built it. 2. "Stone House Tavern" did not refer to the Talbott House, as a later entry in the "Minutes" shows. The Trustees meeting of December 7, 1799 is more specific: "at the Stone House in Bardstown where General Joseph Lewis keeps a tavern." Just where this tavern was located is hard to say, but it is very likely the stone house which Benjamin Grayson built near the corner of Second and Flaget streets. It is most often referred to as the "Old Stone Tavern", most reliable tradition stating that Louis Philippe stayed there. *Deed Book 3*

proves that Ben Grayson sold it before August 25, 1790, as an entry of that date shows, recording that Isaac Morrison conveyed the house and lot to William May, "being also the stone house in which Benjamin Grayson lately lived."

There is little doubt that the Talbott House is one of the oldest hotels in the country, having been conducted as an inn for about 150 years. It has no claim, however, to Louis Philippe or the Rowan-Chambers duel.

Old newspaper advertisements show that the Talbott House has had many names. Besides those already used, it was called the Bardstown Hotel, Chapman's Hotel, Shady Bower Hotel and the Newman House.

Another famous old inn, Inn of Seven Stars, a long wooden structure on Main street near the corner of Broadway, was dismantled in 1926. Hon. Ben Johnson tells some of its history in the *Kentucky Standard*, November 6, 1941:

At a very early date there came to Bardstown a man of German descent named Christian Hahn. . . On the east side of Third Street, between Broadway and Brashear Avenue, he erected a two-story log house as a residence which years afterward was weather-boarded. Hotels in those days were not numerous enough to accomodate those who ventured this far west. Consequently, Hahn commenced to take lodgers. It grew to be a generally recognized inn, but was never called the "Inn of Seven Stars" until about 1861 when the War between the States broke out. As his patronage grew, Hahn built additions, both to the north and south ends of the original house.

When the War came, Kentucky. . . became the gate-way for travelers bound both North and South. As seven States seceded, the Confederate flag had seven stars. Confederate sympathizers used the expression "seven stars" to indicate to strangers that they were Confederate. Hahn's inn was in 1861 quietly called "Seven Stars" for this reason.

This account discredits vague legends which said that the inn was named for "the seven beautiful daughters of

the landlord"—or his "seven strong sons", as another version tells.

The south end of the inn became the residence of Alexander McCown. It burned in 1804 or 1810, but not until John Fitch had lived there and probably died on the property. Stated J. C. W. Beckham in the *Louisville Journal* about 1876:

All of Fitch's models, drawings, etc. were burned in the house of Dr. McCown, which stood on the corner of Main and Third streets, in this town, and which was set fire by an enemy of the doctor's about 1810.

A misreading of this clipping makes false claims for another house in Bardstown, known in recent years as John Fitch Inn. A large rectangular brick building of singular beauty, it stands on the south-east corner of the court square.

Other inns include Washington Hall, noted in the *Western Herald*, May 10, 1826. Charles Holloway opened it "west of the public square and fronting Messrs. Thomas Hite and Co." Issues of 1828 advertised "Columbian Inn kept by James Green".

The *Catholic Advocate* of 1836 mentions the "Smiley House" on the east side of Main street where the Modern Furniture Company is now located. Mr. W. F. McGill is probably referring to the same hotel when he writes: "Moses Black bought the Commonwealth Bank in 1826" and combining it with two adjacent pieces of property, "converted the three buildings into a hotel." Likely this is Black's Tavern mentioned occasionally in early history.

Mr. McGill also describes an inn known as the Gault House when he writes: "On Broadway and Third Street, William McDonough kept a grog-shop and house of entertainment" and "Simon McDonough kept a hotel and grog-shop". These were on the west side of Third, opposite the Inn of Seven Stars.



OLD PRINT

ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE

SEATS ON LEARNING

I.

Bardstown's first school, Salem Academy, also designated as Bairdstown Academy, was established prior to 1782. It continued for a good many years. As late as 1837 a notice appears in the *Catholic Advocate* that "a female teacher is being employed at Salem Academy", which was then in the charge of F. X. McAtee.

In one class of the famous old school were graduated John Rowan, Felix Grundy, John Pope, Joseph H. Daviess, John Allen and Archibald Cameron—all distinguished men in later life. Ben Hardin and Ben Chapeze are said to have attended the school.

Though not the first teacher, Dr. James Priestly is the best known. He was a man "of deep learning, laborious habits, great firmness and of a somewhat irascible and imperious temper, but on the whole well suited to be controller and instructor in the rough times in which he lived."

A. L. Crabb of Peabody College, Nashville, claims it is not known where the schoolmaster was born. He received his training at Liberty Hall Academy, now known as Washington and Lee University, then came to Bardstown where he remained until being named headmaster of a school in Annapolis, Md. From there, "he went to the principalship of the male department of Cokesbury College, Nashville." In 1820, he became its president but died in the following year.

When Bishop Flaget started for Kentucky in 1810, he was already planning for the education of young men for the priesthood. Father David was placed over this work, and on his word, "the boat on which we descended the Ohio", from Pittsburgh to Kentucky, "became the cradle of our seminary". In the following year it was formally opened at St. Thomas, three and a half miles from Bardstown.

In 1812 Father Nerinckx's Sisters of Loretto began a school nine miles from Bardstown. Father David's Sisters of Charity set up their first school at St. Thomas in 1814. Five years later they opened Bethlehem Academy in Bardstown. In 1820 the regular clergy established St. Joseph's College. In 1822 the Sisters of Charity procured their present motherhouse, Nazareth Academy.

A study of local newspapers of the 1830's discloses that Bardstown had other schools. In the columns of the *Protestant and Herald* in 1839, readers were informed that the "Bardstown Collegiate Institute" would be known as Templeton's School thereafter.

The same paper states that S. S. McRoberts had succeeded N. L. Rice to the principalship of Bardstown Female Academy. This school had been founded February 10, 1838, by Mr. Rice. Its trustees were C. A. Wickliffe, Nathanael Wickliffe and Charles Nourse. In 1849 Dr. Jouett Vernon Cosby took over the school,

changed the name to Roseland Academy, and conducted it until its suspension in 1895.

Like practically all schools of the early days, Salem Academy and Roseland Academy were denominational. James Priestly, N. L. Rice, S. S. McRoberts and Dr. Cosby were all Prebyterian ministers.

Another of the older schools, Bardstown Co-Educational College, located in the house now occupied by Mrs. John Newman, was originally a Methodist academy managed by Dr. John Atkinson. It was later conducted by the Baptists until 1908, when it was discontinued. Of this school the *Kentucky Standard* wrote in 1904:

For nearly three-quarters of a century this institution has been an important factor in fitting and making young ladies and young gentlemen more proficient in every business. . . Its location is beautiful both by nature and art. . . This institution has for 20 years been under the management of Prof. H. J. Greenwell as President—a man who stands in the front rank of modern school men. 1378379

Besides the schools already mentioned, issues of the *Catholic Advocate* from 1836 to 1841 carry advertisements for several others: the Old Town Seminary is designated as “a school for small children”; Misses C. L. and M. M. McAtee announce a new school with courses of instruction embracing “a thorough knowledge of the English language, Geography, etc.”; and in the following year (1838),

Mrs. Z. Grubbs would say to her friends and the public generally that she designs commencing her second session on Monday, 6th of August. The school will be continued in the front rooms of the house occupied by Rev. J. Stamper.

In addition to the regular elementary subjects offered by this school, the course of study included “natural history, mythology, ancient history, rhetoric, natural and moral philosophy, chemistry, astronomy, botany, music and French.”

Schools for the arts appear even in those early and frontier days. On March 24, 1837, “Monsieur Mallet

(from New York), professor of dancing after the method of the Royal Academy of Paris", offered his services under terms of \$15 per quarter, 30 lessons.

In 1839 this notice:

Mr. Smith, Professor and Teacher of Dancing and Waltzing, from Louisville—most respectfully announces to Parents and Guardians of Children and the public generally of Bardstown that he will open a school for the beautiful accomplishment of Dancing and Waltzing, on Wednesday, the 13th Inst. in the room over Messrs. Daniel's store. . . Ten dollars for 12 weeks (2 lessons a week).

In 1840, "Mr. Julius A. De La Barte (from Paris), Professor of French and Spanish languages at the Bardstown Female Academy" made known that he intended to give private lessons in these languages and also to conduct a school of fencing.

II.

In speaking before Congress of the United States in 1832, Charles A. Wickliffe said of St. Joseph's College, "Sir, I believe it the best college west of the mountains".

And on March 31, 1838, the *Advocate* printed the following letter to the editor, concerning Nazareth Academy:

The cause of religion, of literature, and of humanity in Kentucky is much indebted to these charitable and devoted daughters of St. Vincent de Paul. They have been intrusted with the education of daughters of men, who rank among the most distinguished orators and statesmen of Kentucky; amongst them we may name the Hon. John Rowan, the Hon. J. J. Crittenden, the Hon. Ben Hardin, and James Guthrie, Esq.

The popularity of St. Joseph's College and Nazareth began throughout the South as early as 1825. In that year a Catholic college in Louisiana was closed and Rev. M. Martial, one of the teachers and friend of Bishop Flaget, brought 50 of the students to Bardstown. "This

was the beginning of the extended patronage from Louisiana and Mississippi" explains Webb's *Centenary*.

Wealthy southerners sent their sons to St. Joseph's and their daughters to Nazareth. By 1836 both schools had capacity enrollments. An editorial notice in the *Advocate*, for November 19, specified that Nazareth was "literally overflowing, with 115 boarders".

Since the school year extended from September until the end of July, it became the fashionable custom for southern parents to spend the summer in Bardstown with their children. The *Advocate* of July 20, 1838, comments:

Our town is at present more crowded with visitors and strangers than it has been for several months past, and every arrival of the stages adds to their numbers. They are principally from the South, and most of them the friends and relations of the students of the Literary and Benevolent Institutions in and near this place, or the patrons of these Institutions.

Graduation exercises of 100 years ago were occasions of even more ceremony than today. In 1839, St. Joseph College reported that its commencement would be held on two days, "due to the number of graduates."

On the first evening the program included "speeches by five of the seniors, followed by an original drama piece, *Reginald de Lonfont—or the Gamester's Fate*". On the second evening four graduates spoke, the last being the valedictorian. An original comedy, "Faith, Doctor!", was then presented, followed by the distribution of awards and diplomas. Theodore O'Hara, author of "Bivouac of the Dead", was recipient of a Master's degree. Awards included prizes for Greek, French, Spanish, English, mathematics, maps, oratory and religion.

A copy of the graduation program for 1844-1845 shows in its prospectus that the school had been empowered by the Legislature of Kentucky since 1824 to confer academic degrees. Tuition, including room and

board, was \$130. There were 155 students, whom recapitulation points 105 from Kentucky, 21 from Louisiana, 14 from Mississippi, 5 from Alabama, two each from Mexico and Cuba, and one from Tennessee, New York, Arkansas, Florida, Maryland and Spain.

It would be difficult to find another college in the state which could present a list of more distinguished alumni than the following roll compiled in 1884 by Webb:

Hon. A. H. Garland, governor of Arkansas; Hon. Robert W. Johnson, representative and senator from Arkansas; Hon. Lazarus W. Powell, governor of Kentucky; Hon. James Speed, attorney-general under President Lincoln; Col. Alexander Churchill and Hon. Samuel B. Churchill, of Louisville; Hons. Otho R. Singleton and William R. Miles, members of Congress from Mississippi; Governors Roman and Wickliffe from Louisiana; Rt. Rev. John McGill, Bishop of Richmond; Alexander Bullett, editor of the *New Orleans Picayune*; Rev. Burr H. McCown, distinguished preacher and educator from Anchorage; Hon. Charles Kelley of Springfield; Hon. Charles Wintersmith, Judge William Lancaster and William Wilson, Esq. of Elizabethtown; Drs. W. Donne, Thomas F. Wilson and John J. Speed and Messrs. Joshua F. Speed¹, Henry Tyler, Daniel Dwyer, William M. Cuthbert and G. Washington Bullitt of Louisville; Hons. John Rowan and Rowan Hardin and Dr. Harrison McCown of Bardstown; Hons. William B. Anthony of Owensboro, George W. Dixon of Henderson, and Cassius M. Clay of Bourbon county.

To this list should be appended the names of writers Theodore O'Hara, Hon. B. J. Webb and Rev. Henry Spalding S. J.; and statesmen Gov. J. C. W. Beckham and Hon. Ben Johnson.

St. Joseph's has had a varied history as shown by the following chart:

1820-1848:	college conducted by diocesan clergy
1849-1869:	college conducted by the Jesuits
1869-1872:	diocesan seminary
1872-1890:	combined seminary and college conducted by diocesan clergy

¹ Joshua Speed was a bosom friend of Abraham Lincoln.

1890-1896: diocesan orphanage

1896-1911: vacant

1911- : boarding and day high school conducted
by Xaverian Brothers

Rev. George A. M. Elder was president of the college from its foundation until 1827 ; he was succeeded by Rev. Ignatius A. Reynolds, later Bishop of Charleston, S. C. In 1830 Father Elder returned until his untimely death in 1837 as a result of a fire at the college, when "the main college building was burnt to the ground". For the next two years the presidency was occupied by Rev. Martin J. Spalding, later bishop of Louisville and archbishop of Baltimore. Rev. James M. Lancaster and Rev. Edward McMahon followed in order until the Jesuits took over in 1848.



SPREAD OF FAITH

Poor though I be, my aspirations are high; for in a few weeks I am going to Bardstown with all the ecclesiastics I can gather, there to lay the corner-stone of my Cathedral. It is to be 120 feet long, 30 in the sanctuary, 90 in the nave; and 65 feet in width. The foundations are of stone, resting on rock; the remainder will be brick. The style is chiefly Corinthian.

The builder (John Rogers), who is very able and a good Catholic, believes it will cost between \$15,000 and \$20,000 to finish the interior, a prodigious sum which assuredly will not be found in the treasury of the Bishop of Bardstown, but rather in the inexhaustible riches of Divine Providence. Such being my heartfelt belief, I trust you, Monsignor, and your clergy will be the instruments of Providence, and procure for me whatever assistance you can in erecting this monument, the first of its kind in this vast territory. . .Protestants of Bardstown and vicinity have so urged me to undertake the work that I should have considered myself guilty of sin, had I not acceded to their solicitations. They subscribed almost entirely among themselves nearly \$10,000. I hope to get \$4,000 or \$5,000 more in the country,

but the remainder must come from well disposed and charitable persons of other places.

—*Bishop Flaget to Bishop Plessis of Quebec* (1816)

Bardstown's first settlers were Protestants. Presbyterianism was predominant, the first church probably being of that denomination. Nora McGee, Bardstown historian, relates that "between 1790 and 1800 Terah Templin, a home missionary" preached here, and was followed in 1802 by Joshua Wilson. The Bard family was Presbyterian; and so was the noted school teacher James Priestly, who conducted Salem Academy.

Though few in number, Baptists were also prominent, having constructed a log church in Nelson county "in July 1781 on Cedar Creek, with Joseph Barnett as pastor". Four years later the Cox's Creek Baptist church was built.

First Catholic emigrants from Maryland arrived in 1785. *Deed Book 3* (page 77) shows that Basil Hayden, the leader, received title to his land near Bardstown, December 3, 1785. But Judge Sam Bolderick, Catholic historian of Louisville, claims that the first Catholic settler in Bardstown was Raphael Lancaster, who "lived in a cave on the south end of town in 1784". There is little doubt, too, that Dr. George Hart was also in Bardstown by 1785, where he died the following year. By 1790 there were at least two others, Anthony Sanders and Nehemiah Webb. Ten years later Bardstown had become the largest Catholic settlement in the state and nucleus of the Church in the West.

Between 1798-1801, St. Joseph's, first Catholic church in Bardstown and fifth in the state, was built in the center of the present Catholic cemetery. Early historians claimed that the land was donated by Dr. Hart, but Judge Bolderick points out that it was the gift of his son, George Hart. The building soon proved too small, and until the completion of the cathedral in 1819, private homes were used for services.

First missionary was Father Whelan, an Irish Franciscan, who arrived in 1787, remaining two and a half years. He was followed by William de Rohan who was active for four years until Father Badin arrived in 1793.

There was some difficulty about Father de Rohan's credentials, as Young E. Allison suggests in the following paragraph from his pamphlet, "The Old Kentucky Home":

Here in 1787 came from France the mysterious young priest, William de Rohan, who has eluded history and escaped the makers of fiction. Was he of the family of the princely name famous in the French cardinalate, eclipsed by the scandal of the Queen's necklace? You will ask an answer in vain. Handsome, gifted, highly educated, gay and grave by turns, he signals "yes" and "no" to every leap of the imagination. He built the first humble log Catholic church west of the Alleghenies, lived many years in pathetic obscurity and then a poor, lonely priest, vanished in death as silently as he had come in life. Even the spot of his grave has been leveled and forgotten. Only the name "Rohan's Knob", still given to a solitary tumulus on the plain, keeps his memory alive. Yet his log chapel contained the potentialities of all the wealth of the Catholic church of the West today.

First pioneer priest to settle permanently, and often spoken of as patriarch of Catholicity in Kentucky, was Stephen Theodore Badin. This remarkable and tireless priest cared for missions extending over hundreds of miles. "From first to last," states Webb's *Centenary of Catholicity in Kentucky*, "his missionary journeyings on horseback in Kentucky exceeded 100,00 miles." For several years, intermittently, Father Badin was alone—the only priest in the whole of Kentucky. His hardships were many; besides "living on horseback" he often "suffered for the very necessities of life".

The year 1805 brought the Trappists, the Dominicans and Father Nerinckx. The Dominicans settled at St. Rose, near Springfield; the Trappists, on Pottinger's Creek, near the present settlement of Holy Cross,

15 miles from Bardstown. After an ill-advised move to the Indian missions of Illinois, the Trappists returned to France in 1813. Father Marie Joseph Dunand, one of their number, wrote the story of these wanderings to his abbot in France. The document is still preserved and has been translated into English. It records horrible trials.

In 1848 the Monks came again to Kentucky, settling on their present property, the monastery of Gethsemani, 14 miles from Bardstown. In their obscure retreat, this severe order of religious, called the reformed Cistercians, has a library rich with treasures. Each year their monastery becomes increasingly popular as a retreat center not only for religious but for laymen, both Catholic and Protestant.

In pioneer Catholic annals, the name of Charles Nerinckx is second only to Stephen Theodore Badin's. A giant in stature as well as character, Father Nerinckx came from Belgium, taking over a large portion of Father Badin's missionary labor. Spalding's *Sketches* records 10 pages of his endurance and super-human strength:

His missionary labors would be almost incredible were they not still so well remembered by almost all the older Catholics of Kentucky. . . His courage was unequalled. Through rain and storms, through snow and ice; over roads rendered almost impassible by mud; over streams swollen by rains, or frozen by cold; by day and by night he might be seen traversing all parts of Kentucky in discharge of his laborious duties. . . He crossed wilderness districts, swam rivers, slept in the woods among wild beasts, and while undergoing all this, he was in the habit of fasting and of voluntarily mortifying himself in many other ways.

Crowning these labors and remaining to the present is the order of "Sisters of Loretto at the Foot of the Cross", which he founded in 1812, some eight miles from Bardstown.

On April 8, 1808, Bardstown was made an episcopal

see, along with Philadelphia, Boston and New York—first divisions of the original U. S. diocese at Baltimore. Father Benedict Joseph Flaget was named first Bishop. Like Father Badin, he was a gift of the French Revolution to the American clergy. He was not consecrated until 1810 and, because he had no funds, could not set out for his diocese until the following year.

Bishop Flaget's territory included Kentucky, Tennessee and the whole Northwest. At this time, according to Sister Ramona Mattingly's scholarly *Catholic Church on the Kentucky Frontier, 1785-1812*, Kentucky had more than 1,000 Catholic families, "10 churches or chapels, and six churches under construction".

The Bishop took up residence with Father Badin at St. Stephen's, now the Loretto Motherhouse. It was but a rude cabin. The following year he was able to move four miles from Bardstown to a farm left to the church by Thomas Howard. Calling the place St. Thomas, the Bishop opened a seminary and founded the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, under the spiritual leadership of Father John Baptist David.

In 1816 the construction of the cathedral at Bardstown was undertaken. Want of funds proved a heavy obstacle, but on August 1, 1819, it was consecrated.



"WICKLAND"

THE PLEIADES

I.

A glance at the lives and accomplishments of some of Bardstown's statesmen gives perhaps the most unified impression of the town's contribution to American culture. On the merits of these statesmen alone one seems justified in calling attention to the town's heavy store of procreative history.

Among the most colorful figures are the two John Rowans. The elder Rowan holds a prominent place in pioneer Kentucky history as one of the ablest lawyers the State has produced. He grew up with early Kentucky, launching his career in the legislature, where he served seven terms. He was secretary of state in Kentucky, served as chief justice in the court of appeals, and was elected U. S. senator. Today he is best remembered as the first master of Federal Hill about which his

cousin Stephen Foster wrote "My Old Kentucky Home".

Rowan surrounded his home with brilliant social life remarkable for pioneer times. He holds the doubtful distinction of having been a fine duelist. His encounter with Dr. Chambers is still subject of discussion, because its tragic result contributed toward the passing of Kentucky's anti-dueling law. Tradition has it that the duel was fought over a mere trifle—whether Rowan the lawyer or Chambers the surgeon was the better "master of the dead languages". Thomas D. Clark recites the incident in his *Rampaging Frontier*:

The two antagonists had fired once and Rowan had deliberately missed his opponent, hoping that the affair would end without bloodshed. Chambers, however, was eager for "satisfaction", and expressed his chagrin that the other duelist was still alive.

"Well," said the great lawyer, "if it must be, I shall kill him here," indicating a spot on his second's coat under the left armpit. An hour later Chambers was dead shot under the left arm.

When Rowan died (1843), his will contained the following paragraph, in which one may read between the lines the calm taking for granted that his dynastic ambitions would not be interrupted by poor marksmanship!

"My dueling pistols I bequeath to my son John and at his death to his eldest son. They are never to be used by either but when their honor imperatively demands it, and in that case I know they will be held steadily."

Rowan's second in this fray was George M. Bibb, who later became secretary of the treasury of the U. S. (1844-45).

Hon. Ben Johnson has also written a clear explanation of the details of this duel for the October 6, 1941, *Kentucky Standard*, stating that it was "fought on February 3, 1801, on what is known as the Charlie Blanford place, something like one and three-quarter miles due south of Bardstown".

Young John Rowan used his father's pistols on at least one occasion. His sweetheart, Rebecca Carnes of

Baltimore, later his wife, told him if he killed his antagonist, Thomas F. Marshall, she would not marry him. Marshall was shot through the hip, a wound which left him cripple for the rest of his life.

Inheriting also his father's wealth and culture, young John was called "the ideal chivalrous Kentucky gentleman". Federal Hill continued to be a rendezvous for artistic, literary and political men. Besides Stephen Foster are noted John's schoolmate at St. Joseph's College, Theodore O'Hara, author of "Bivouac of the Dead"; John Milton Harney, physician, poet and brother-in-law of Rowan; and another relative, William Haines Lytle, author of "I am Dying, Egypt, Dying!".

Having served a term in the legislature, young Rowan was appointed minister to Naples during President Fillmore's administration. He died the victim of a tragic accident. Falling from a second story window at Federal Hill, he was lodged head down in the fork of a tree, where he was found dead the next morning.

II.

Charles A. Wickliffe is another of Bardstown's illustrious lawyers and statesmen. After building Wickland mansion in 1817 and fighting as an officer in the battle of the Thames, he launched his political career which included representative in Kentucky's legislature, congressman, lieutenant-governor and governor of Kentucky, and finally postmaster-general in President Tyler's cabinet, where his most important contributions were lowering postal rates and determining the price and kind of foreign postage.

Governor Wickliffe was the father of Governor Robert Wickliffe of Louisiana, and grandfather of J. C. W. Beckham, a governor of Kentucky. Both Robert Wickliffe and John Crepps Wickliffe Beckham lived at Wickland; the former moved to Louisiana for his health, but spent many of his summers at Bardstown;

Crepps Beckham taught school (as a young man) at Roseland Academy and was principal of the public school. When only 24, he was elected to the Kentucky legislature. His rise was swift and brilliant; before he was 35, he had been governor of Kentucky three times, and later U. S. senator. He died in Louisville in 1839.

III.

Six lawyers formed the original group called the Pleiades Club. They were Charles A. Wickliffe, Ben Hardin, John Hays, Ben Chapeze, Felix Grundy and William Pope DuVal. John Rowan and John Pope seem to have taken part in the activities of this debating club, also. The accomplishments of the individuals of the group were truly remarkable. Practically all of them, with the exception of John Hays, became national figures. Hays, a brilliant speaker, stunted his career by the habit of drink.

As a lawyer, Felix Grundy surpassed John Hays. Hon. Ben Johnson considers him the genius of the Pleiades. Grundy's early life was spent in Bardstown, where he had come as a boy. "He was educated at Bairdstown Academy, studied law, and was only 22 when elected member of the first Kentucky legislature." From the legislature he moved to judge of the court of appeals, later becoming chief justice and founder of "our circuit court system".

Sam Carpenter Elliott, in the 1896 *Nelson County Record*, continued the sketch:

In 1807 he registered as judge and moved to Nashville, where he soon rose to the first rank in his profession; he was sent to Congress from Tennessee, serving until 1838, when he became Attorney-General of the United States, and was again in 1840 elected to the Senate, but did not take his seat. He died at Nashville in 1840.

William Pope DuVal, next of the Pleiades, has been kept in American letters by Washington Irving, who

devoted three of his *Crayon Papers* to this Virginian who came to Kentucky as a youth. "The Early Experiences of Ralph Ringwood" recounts DuVal's boyhood and his romance with Nancy Hynes. He married this daughter of Col. Andrew Hynes in 1803.

After studying law in the office of Judge Broadnax in Bardstown, DuVal was an attorney in Hardin county. During the War of 1812, "he was made a captain in the Mounted Rangers and helped to protect the frontier settlements in the valley of the Wabash from the Indians", explains J. O. Knauss in the January 1933 *Florida Historical Quarterly*. At the end of the war he was elected to Congress without opposition. In 1822 he was appointed governor of the territory of Florida, and was reappointed by Jackson and Adams.

Little's *Life of Ben Hardin* evaluates DuVal:

DuVal was a fascinating the fluent talker. One informant relates that whenever he stopped on the street, a crowd gathered to listen. . . His posthumous fame indeed rests rather on his colloquial powers than on his forensic achievements.

Of the Pleiades group, Ben Hardin is the most popular lawyer. Born in Pennsylvania in 1784, he was brought to Kentucky while still a baby, and educated at Thomas P. Knott's school at Raywick, and later at Bardstown where in 1805 he read law with Felix Grundy. As his reputation grew, he was sometimes called to other states, and very often before the U. S. Supreme Court. Sam Carpenter Elliott looked upon him as having "few equals in this State as a great lawyer; and as a criminal lawyer none in the Commonwealth could surpass him." He served several times as a member of the Kentucky senate and lower house, was secretary of state under Gov. Owsley, and elected to the lower house of the national Congress, serving over 10 years.

In paying tribute to the galaxy of state pioneer lawyers, "the circuit riders", Judge Sam Boldrick—at the

dedication of Marion county court house, December 1935—said of Ben Hardin:

Ben Hardin was very likely the best *nisi prius* lawyer in Kentucky, because he knew everybody and could call everybody by his first name and inquire about all the family. He and Clem Hill had no peers in selecting juries. Hardin in trial would tear into opposing counsel, but could not stand criticism himself and often after making the opening speech would leave the court house and pace up and down. . . He would ask, "What is that damn rascal saying about me?"

In 1845 Hardin was presidential elector on the Whig ticket, but was defeated. He died in Bardstown in 1852.

Last two members of the Pleiades are Ben Chapeze and Hon. John Pope. The former was a figure of statewide renown, designated in local history as a brilliant speaker and highly respected lawyer in whose office were trained a number of young men who later became prominent lawyers. John Pope was born in Virginia in 1770 but came to Kentucky when quite young. After studying law in Bardstown, he became one of the most distinguished men in the western country. After serving as congressman from Kentucky (1807-1812), he was appointed governor of the territory of Arkansas by President Jackson, a position he held from 1829 to 1835. Back in Kentucky in 1837 he again served as congressman for the next six years. He died in 1845 at his home near Springfield. O. W. Baylor of that town has written and published his life.

IV.

The late John M. Cooney, former teacher in Bardstown and head of the journalism school at the University of Notre Dame, lists Richard Rudd among Bardstown's great lawyers, declaring:

Richard Rudd was an unwitting factor in American history. He was attorney for Thomas Lincoln in a legal action in which Abe's father was denied title to the Knob Creek farm, which loss being the immediate cause of his leaving

Kentucky to settle in Indiana. This in turn made possible the subsequent career of his illustrious son.

The Rudd family are of considerable distinction in Kentucky. Of the six Catholics in the Kentucky Constitutional Convention of 1849, one was James Rudd. There is a Rudd Avenue in Louisville named for this family.

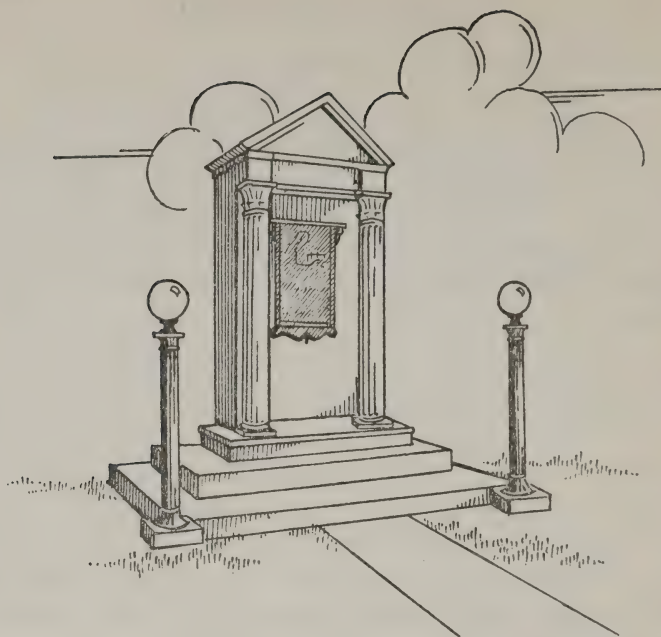
Still another of the older lawyers of the town is Judge John E. Newman. Hon. Ben Johnson has said of him:

Judge Newman was, in my opinion and that of thousands of others, the best lawyer ever here. He was not an advocate such as Ben Hardin and a few others, but more, a very great lawyer. He was the author of *Newman's Pleadings*, a copy of which is in the office of all lawyers.

Mr. Johnson and his father should be listed here. Hon. William Johnson was born in Kentucky of substantial Maryland stock. Having studied law under Ben Hardin, he launched on a public career which included Nelson county attorney, state senator (1865-1873), lieutenant-governor, and finally acting governor of Kentucky. His son Ben served several terms as U. S. congressman, was once a candidate for governor, and for many years one of the most influential political figures of the state.

Hon. James Guthrie, lawyer and statesman, was born in Nelson county in 1793, and was educated "at McAlister's Academy, Bardstown", then studied law under John Rowan. He became president of the L & N railroad, was nominated for U. S. President at the Charleston convention of 1860, served as secretary of the treasury under Pierce and U. S. senator from 1865 to 1868.

Three other governors of Kentucky had connection with Bardstown: Gov. Charles Slaughter Morehead (1855-1859) was born here. Gov. Lazarus Whitehead Powell and Gov. John L. Helm were educated at St. Joseph College.



JOHN FITCH MONUMENT

OTHER LIGHTS

I.

Several States have a claim to inventor John Fitch, but to Bardstown he came in 1780 as a surveyor, and in Bardstown he spent the last years of his life. It is Bardstown, too, which has promoted his claim to the invention of the steamboat.

In 1927, on evidence produced by Mrs. Ben Johnson, Congress made a belated public acknowledgement of the priority of Fitch's claim to the invention of steam navigation, by appropriating \$15,000 for the erection of a monument over his grave on Court Square in Bardstown. Despite this fact, history books still give the credit to Fulton.

Fitch's life is not a pretty story. The late Thomas Boyd presented in 1935 an engrossing biography of the inventor.

Boyd claims that Fitch committed suicide at Bardstown, "when he swallowed a dozen opium pills at a gulp and washed them down with whiskey." Other persons have said that he hanged himself in the town jail. But the real truth is not so dramatic. Mrs. Johnson's evidence states that he died in a room at the home of the town jailor Alex McCown, next door to the Inn of Seven Stars, "of a liver ailment caused by long and excessive drinking". Mr. Johnson has added other details about Fitch's death in the *Kentucky Standard*, November 6, 1941.

It is a mistake to believe that John Fitch ever lived in the house on Court Square now called John Fitch Inn. Nor was the house ever owned by Alexander McCown. The Bardstown plat of 1824 names the owner as "McLain", which may account for the error, but more likely the confusion has resulted from misreading a letter to the Louisville *Journal* by J. C. W. Beckham about 1876 which explains:

All of Fitch's models, drawings, etc. were burned in the house of Dr. McCown, which stood on the corner of Main and Third streets, in this town, and which was set fire by an enemy of the doctor's about 1810.

In the early days of the town, the street known today as Broadway—not Third street—was called "Main street". Evidently a careless reading of Mr. Beckham's letter or his source of information is responsible for the article in the *Kentucky Standard*, May 19, 1927, which speaks of the house being located "at the corner of Main and Market streets". Market street is now called Foster avenue.

Most valuable documents on Fitch are three manuscripts in the Philadelphia library. These were written in 1787 by Fitch himself at the insistence of Presbyterian minister Nathaniel Irwin. They tell in detail of the "history of his steamboat invention and. . .his curious and singular life". Adds Boyd:

This Fitch did in a completely frank, queerly misspelled document which he deposited with the Library Company of Philadelphia. With it he left the injunction that it must not be opened until 30 years after his death.

The journals which Fitch kept when surveying in the Ohio and Kentucky wilderness, 1780-1782, are preserved in the Library of Congress.

Fitch's strange, unfortunate life reads like a realistic novel. He was born in South Windsor, Conn., January 21, 1743, and after a childhood of hardships on his father's farm, finally hired himself out as apprentice to a clock-maker. His master misused him, taught him nothing. Escaping from this drudgery, he tried his hand at silver and coppersmith trades, took to himself a wife and attempted to settle down; but, in January 1769, he deserted his "nagging wife" and two children, one of them unborn, and wandered down to Bucks county, Pa.

A soldier in the Revolution, he advanced to lieutenant, but resigned after a disagreement, and became a profiteer at Valley Forge "supplying the soldiers with tobacco, beer and other articles," according to Thompson Wescott's life of Fitch.

After the war he set out for Ohio and Kentucky to survey land. In this way he acquired 1600 acres near Bardstown, by a grant from Virginia in 1782. In the same year he was captured by Indians and taken into Canada. Escaping he returned to Pennsylvania.

Boyd denies that the inventor conceived the idea of propelling a boat by steam while sitting on the banks of the Ohio river, as is sometimes claimed. It happened in Bucks county, Pa. One day while walking home very tired from a prayer meeting, Fitch stood "wincing and glowering over the painful difficulty of getting home" when a carriage passed him on the road. He sighed: "What a noble thing it would be if I could have such a carriage without the expense of keeping a horse".

A thought struck him immediately—Steam! He set to work as soon as he reached his log shop, plunging

bare-handed "into the over-powering task of designing an engine, harnessing its power to a vehicle and indicating some kind of road on which the carriage could run. But the problem of traction soon discouraged him." Roads were too muddy and steel rails were unthought of.

After a week of baffling struggle, Fitch transferred his hopes to the rivers. This was the beginning of that nightmare lasting, with short respite, for the remaining 14 years of his life. His most faithful patron was Dr. William Thornton of Philadelphia, who aided the invention with as much money as he could spare. But that was not enough.

In September 1785, Fitch presented a drawing of his boat, models and tube boiler to the American Philosophical Society, whose leader, Ben Franklin, refused to back the invention and even betrayed his confidence by publishing a treatise on steam navigation, using Fitch's ideas but taking credit to himself.

Then followed a long round of unsuccessful attempts to get federal and state assistance. Fitch was given the exclusive "privilege to navigate certain waters by boats propelled by fire or steam," but no money to build the boats.

From 1788 to 1790 Fitch met with the best fortune of his inventive career. With the assistance of Dr. Thornton and a few other friends, he built a boat and used it on the Delaware river between Philadelphia and Trenton. This boat worked but the project was a financial failure. Boyd relates:

The steamboat had travelled 80 miles in a day. It had carried passengers between two and three thousand miles from the middle of May to the end of September 1790. It had proved itself mechanically by going so much faster than Robert Fulton's *Clermont* was to go in 1807 that had they started together over the same course, at the same time, Fitch's boat would have reached Albany 52 miles in advance of the *Clermont*. But between Philadelphia and Trenton,

without the beneficent tricks of subsidy and franchise, without a wealthy, influential backer (like Robert Livingston) and an assured monopoly, the steamboat drained the pockets of its supporters and doomed its inventor.

In 1791 Congress granted Fitch patents for a steamboat but still no financial assistance. Finally, in desperation he journeyed to Europe. In 1793 French patronage seemed assured only to be withdrawn because of the French Revolution.

Broken and poverty-stricken, the inventor returned to America, settling in Bardstown. He spent the last tragic years of his life constructing steamboat models, and, with the help of John Rowan and Alexander McCown (Court records for June 4, 1798 show that McCown loaned Fitch \$1,000) tried to recover the lands which had been deeded him in 1782. He died on July 2, 1798.

His will appeared in *Will Book A*, page 351, and *Deed Book 8*, for March 1805, page 130, of the Nelson county court. By the will he bequeathed to William Rowan his beaver hat, shoes, knee and stock buckles, walking stick and spectacles; and to Dr. William Thornton, Eliza Vail, John Rowan and James Nourse, the balance of his estate. It is said that William Rowan got the lion's share!

II.

Bardstown's doctors deserve next consideration. Dr. George Hart with William and Frances Coomes came to Bardstown about 1785. Mrs. Coomes is said to have been an unusual woman. She is remembered today as Kentucky's first school teacher, at Harrod's Fort about 1774. John A. Ouchterlony in his pamphlet, "Pioneer Medical Men and Times in Kentucky", gives her other remarkable titles — first person to manufacture salt, make bread and the first woman physician in the state.

She was physician, surgeon and obstetrician and her fame and practice extended far and wide, even attracting

patients from remote settlements, not only in Kentucky, but in adjoining states.

Just how reliable this information is would be difficult to ascertain. It is quite possible that Mrs. Coomes was a capable midwife, but hardly a doctor in the true sense of the word. Her name appears in some early court documents as "Jane Coomes"; possibly her full name was Jane Frances Coomes.

First doctor of the town to gain wide reputation was Walter Brashear who, in 1806 at Bardstown, performed the first hip-joint operation in America. The patient was a 17 year old mulatto slave boy belonging to Father Badin. The thigh was amputated at the hip joint, the result being called "a complete success". Dr. Burr Harrison assisted in this operation.

Dr. Brashear was born in 1776 of a wealthy Maryland Catholic family which came to Kentucky in 1785, clearing a farm near Shepherdsville. Walter, the seventh son, "was set aside for the medical profession," locating in Bardstown on the present site of the post office and the *Kentucky Standard* offices. He moved to Lexington in 1813. A street in Bardstown bears his name.

Dr. C. P. Mattingly was perhaps Bardstown's greatest medical man. His career was brilliant in many respects. Born in Marion county in 1812, he attended St. Mary's College and University of Pennsylvania medical school where he graduated at the age of 19 with highest honors. To practice his profession before reaching his majority required a special permit which he justified two years later when he became the only doctor in the vicinity of Springfield able to successfully combat the cholera epidemic.

This experience led the young doctor to make a study of yellow fever, particularly of malaria; this work finally taking him to the University of Heidelberg, where he did some original work on tetanus. When he

returned to America, he wrote a pamphlet on hygiene which was translated into nine languages.

The late Mrs. William Brown Meloney, New York newspaper woman and daughter of Dr. Mattingly, has written many interesting incidents about her father. Relative to his fight for sanitation, one of her letters recounted:

I remember Dr. Gibney told me that Father was one of the first physicians in this country to admit that tuberculosis is a communicable disease. He was once hissed at a medical convention when he said that pillows and bedding which had been used by tubercular patients should not be used by healthy people. . . Father stood on the platform undisturbed and finally when things quieted down he said that the time was not far distant when his claim would be accepted by all of them.

Dr. Mattingly moved to Bardstown in 1838. He was a president of the Kentucky Medical Society, and an active member of the American Medical Association which he represented in France in 1876. His death occurred at Bardstown in 1886.

Other Bardstown doctors well remembered include Legrand Pope, A. G. Blincoe, Thomas D. Williams, Hugh Rodman, Alfred Smith and Myles Willett. At Memphis, a monument was erected to Dr. Willett for his unselfish work during a yellow-fever epidemic in the 1870's.



TALBOT TAVERN

PORTRAITS

I.

REV. STEPHEN THEODORE BADIN

No one can witness the length of Father Badin's priestly service, the breadth of his mission field, or the soundness of the foundations he built, without profound admiration for this priest who, often enough, was a cantankerous hurricane of vehemence and energy. He was, perhaps, no saint. But he had one saintly quality that far outshone his defects: he gave himself to his evangelical work without stint or measure. He went on until he had nothing left, either of himself or of his goods.—*Rev. Arthur J. Hope, C. S. C.*

This small, dark, wiry man who, judging from his pictures, grew somewhat corpulent in his old age, was a person around whom legends naturally grew. His contemporaries tell that he was fond of talking and smoking. There is no doubt about his ability to make friends; their number and quality vouch for that. There is no doubt that he made enemies, too; but man may add to his stature by the type of enemies that he makes.

Both Webb and Bishop Spalding have related any number of stories about Father Badin's clashes with radicals. He had little respect or patience for oral controversy as a means of religious enlightenment; but on some occasions when challenged to public debate, if he thought the Church would suffer by his refusal, he would accept. Being a brilliant man well-versed in biblical literature, he experienced little difficulty in vanquishing his opponents.

Yet his humor was notorious. "An apt innuendo, a sharp stroke of wit, or a cutting satire delivered in a single sentence, was generally all that was necessary" to stop the ignorant or the insolent. Webb relates this incident:

Father Badin was once met by a Presbyterian clergyman on the road from Bardstown to Fairfield. The priest had his saddle strapped on his back, and was trudging along on foot.

"Where's your horse, Mr. Badin?" asked the minister.

"He was taken ill and died on the road," answered the priest.

"Did you give him absolution before he died?"

"Oh no," replied Father Badin, "it would have been useless; the silly animal turned Presbyterian *in articulo mortis*, and went straight to hell."

As might be expected of one of his fiery temperament and philosophy of discipline, Father Badin sometimes made enemies among his own. Sister Ramona records that complaints were made to Bishop Carroll regarding his exactions on dancing. His reply was:

I have said a dozen times that dancing was no sin, and I have tolerated it in the day time; but I have found by experience that. . .they protract it late in the night. . .give general scandal to the Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians, etc., who abominate the practice at any hour; that the most profligate characters come thereto uninvited, and that they are an infallible occasion of sin for most of the actors or spectators.

Father Badin's outspokenness, his anxiety to get

things done, his impatience at obstacles, his ruthlessness—all these things, annoying at times, do not detract from his greatness. Explains Father Hope:

When he stepped into the barn where young people were dancing to the scraping fiddle and ordered them to kneel down and say their prayers; when he reminded the ladies of his vast parish to serve more simple food and neglect the menus of more sophisticated folks; when he imposed extraordinary and severe penances for what might be termed lesser infractions of the law; when he heard himself described as a peppery old tyrant and knew that the Catholics were afraid he might be made their Bishop, he could afford to smile. He was really a tyrant.

He was guilty of all these things. They are all true; but if in the land of Kentucky and the old Northwest, many a Catholic name has been saved for Catholicism, it is due to the inexhaustible tyranny of the proto-priest!

It seemed inevitable that one who was on his own for so long, should have difficulty bowing in obedience to a less experienced superior. Such was the case of Father Badin when Bishop Flaget arrived at Bardstown in 1811. Differences between them grew until 1819 when Father Badin voluntarily returned to France.

Webb gives two reasons for this exodus. The first concerned deeds to church property in Father Badin's name which the Bishop insisted should be turned over to the diocese. The second was the natural human disappointment that he was not named assistant or co-adjutor to the Bishop.

But his heart remained in the new world. In 1821 he published at Paris a valuable historical document called *Origine et Progres de la Mission du Kentucky*. And from the tone of the following letter—one of a series to Father Ignatius Chabrat, Bishop Flaget's co-adjutor in Bardstown—one can read between the lines that the "first ordained" still yearned for Kentucky. It is not surprising, then, that in 1829 he did return.

Seminaire de St. Nicholas
Paris, September 5, 1823

Rev. and dear Sir:

You must know that I have become pretty well acquainted with your brother, the doctor, who spent some months in Paris. I will write to him and tell him of your wants . . . First an organ. Mons. Morel of Bordeaux wrote me that he had sent you one, and also certain church furniture in charge of a priest, but he no tidings of him. Secondly, a chimney clock; *une horloge*, louder, for your monastery; and a few bells. It appears to me you have grown fond of noise since you bought the *gros bourdon* for the Cathedral. Let me tell you that the sound of that bell is echoed even in Paris, where I lately saw Mr. Rousand. He tells me that you have paid dearly for it, on account of the carriage from Lyons to Bordeaux. I am mistaken in saying that you have paid. It appears probable enough that it will fall to my lot to discharge that debt, or a part of it. Well, it will be no hardship, but a pleasure to me, believing as I do, *beatum est magis dare quam accipere*, but I cannot enjoy the greater beatitude, as may well be imagined, without first receiving the lesser one.

Third and lastly, you want two or three hundred dollars! I do easily conceive the distress of a zealous priest in Kentucky, when he has at heart, as it is meet he should have, the welfare of the church. I foretold you these things but you would not believe my word. I do not blame but praise you for it; and to be sure it will afford me pleasure to assist you whenever I can do so. A pagan queen once said: *Non ignara mali, miseris, succerere disco*. How much more a Christian to even strangers, *et, a fortiori*, a priest toward a priest. . . Should any of your family go to America, they may themselves be the bearers of succors.

Before this reaches you, no doubt, you will know of Bishop Fenwick's safe arrival at Rome, where, I am afraid, he will be detained longer than he thought for, on account of the Holy Father's death. . .

Though short, the account you gave me of the family of Mr. Sanders of Bullitt county, was most acceptable. But why did you not address something of those generous and constant friends, Mr. and Mrs. Sanders of Nelson, Mr. Gwynn, Mr. Gardiner, and others? To these you will give my best compliments.

I would be happy to see my friends again, but God only knows when or whether. His holy will be done. . . You write

from Scott county, and yet you do not mention the name of my good-hearted friend, Judge Twyman. I charge you (you do not object to the service nor the expression, I hope) to assure him of my invariable esteem and friendship.

This day thirty years ago, I left Baltimore for Kentucky.

Totus tuus, etc.

S. T. Badin

When Father Badin came back to America, he went to the Michigan territory to visit his brother, Father Vincent Badin, and his life-long friend, the illustrious Father Gabriel Richard, founder of the Catholic missions in Michigan and the only priest ever to serve in U. S. Congress. Late in the same year Father Badin returned to Kentucky. In 1830 he arranged with Bishop Fenwick of Cincinnati to take charge of the Pottawotamy Indian mission of St. Joseph River, Michigan.

In 1836 he was forced to retire from the Indian work on account of poor health. The next year, on the solicitations of Bishop Flaget, he returned to Bardstown as vicar-general of the diocese. During the next two years Bardstown was his residence.

As he aged, the number of his eccentricities increased, not the least of which was his persistent habit of giving advice. When his opinions were not taken, he would become offended, pack up his baggage and move. This seems to have happened frequently; for, during the last 15 years of his life he was constantly moving from one place to another.

When the episcopate was moved from Bardstown to Louisville in 1841, Father Badin moved with it but continued his protracted visits to Indiana, Ohio, Michigan and Illinois. A good deal of his time was spent at the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, which had been founded by his fellow countryman, Father Edward Sorin. Father Badin was the original owner of the land title where the University was built.

Several very human incidents are recorded of Father Badin in his old age. In his 73rd year when his memory

began to fail, the following notification appeared in the *Catholic Advocate* (1841):

Stephen Theodore Badin to his friends, greetings: As old age renders me forgetful and as I frequently leave at places where I may happen to be, books and various articles of clothing, and as many books which I have loaned have not been returned, I do hereby give such friends an invitation to forward such articles, especially my cloak, to the nearest residing clergyman, requesting him to have them delivered to me as soon as will be convenient. Reader, be not surprised at this request; the Apostle made a similar one. See Second Timothy, vi: 13.

How true to old age is the drawn-out, intricate sentence of this notice. There is indication that Father Badin's sermons bore the same quality. Father Hope relates the following from old files of the *Notre Dame Scholastic* of 1871:

One old student recalls that in the college church, which was none other than the old log chapel, Father Badin never read from the gospel book. Instead, he would take the missal from the altar, place it on the head of some small boy standing before him, and, good Frenchman that he was, gesticulate his way through a sermon, though his right arm was partially paralyzed, as was his human book-stand, too, very likely, before the sermon was over.

At this period (1845), he was neither pithy nor brief in his sermons. When the congregation saw him turn to speak, they made a movement for the door. On one hot summer's day the people grew tired and marched out of church. He roared out: "Shut the door and keep them out; out they have gone; now let them stay out!"

Brother James actually did close the door. But the people outside were listening. When they perceived that Father Badin was going on with the Mass, they pressed against the door. It gave way, and slid up the aisle, the people after it.

Webb's story of the final exodus of Father Badin from Kentucky is as touching as it is amusing:

Except for the funeral of Bishop Flaget, February 14, 1856, Father Badin's last public appearance in Louisville

was on August 15, 1849, on the occasion of the laying of the cornerstone of the Cathedral of the Assumption, against the erection of which, on the spot it now occupies, he had vainly protested. He might have been a conspicuous figure in the ceremonial of the day, but he was not; and for the reason, it is supposed, that he did not want to be regarded as friendly to an undertaking which he looked upon as a blunder.

When the function was over, however, and the majority of those who had witnessed it had left the grounds, another ceremonial took place, that was altogether novel and unexpected and in this the *proto-sacerdos* was the only actor. Bareheaded, surpliced and with a book in hand, he slowly paced along the foundations, and in tones that were now a chant and then a mumble, recited as he went the *Miserere*.

Having read this psalm for the dead, a few days later Father Badin suddenly announced that he was taking leave of the diocese. His first entry into the State had been on foot; his departure was even less dignified, but more independent. Seated upon his box of chattels, which had been placed upon a dray, Webb tells, he was drawn from his lodgings in the Bishop's house to the river front. There, so to speak, he shook from his feet the dust of his adopted State, turning over his person and belongings to the pilot of a river boat to Cincinnati.

He died April 21, 1853, and was buried in the crypt of the cathedral at Cincinnati. On the request of the authorities at Notre Dame University, his remains were removed in 1906 to the log-chapel shrine at the University where they now rest. A hall on the campus is named in his honor.

II.

JOHN MILTON HARNEY

One of the most interesting Bardstown writers, and the first Kentucky poet to gain a wide reputation, was John Milton Harney. His life is as unusual as his verse.

In 1815 he published anonymously a book of poems, *Crystalina, a Fairy Tale*, which he had written as a

youth. Because of shyness he had kept it in manuscript until his wife Eliza, Judge Rowan's eldest daughter, prevailed upon him to print it. The volume "was praised by Rufus Griswald, John Neal and other well-known critics," but the author believed that adverse criticism far over-balanced the favorable. He published nothing more in book form and did all in his power to suppress the edition of *Crystalina*.

Not until 1837, 12 years after Harney's death, did William Davis Gallagher, editor of the *Western Literary Journal*, go over the Harney manuscripts and publish "Echo and the Lover". It had a wide audience, being parodied at home and abroad.

ECHO AND THE LOVER

Lover: Echo! mysterious nymph, declare
Of what you're made and what you are—

Echo: "Air!"

Lover: Mid airy cliffs, and places high,
Sweet Echo! listening, love, you lie—

Echo: "You lie!"

Lover: You but resuscitate dead sounds—
Hark! how my voice revives, resounds!

Echo: "Zounds!"

Lover: I'll question you before I go—
Come answer me more apropos!

Echo: "Poh! Poh!"

Lover: Tell me, fair nymph, if e'er you saw
So sweet a girl as Phoebe Shaw!

Echo: "Pshaw!"

Lover: Say what will win that frisking coney
Into the toils of matrimony.

Echo: "Money!"

Lover: Has Phoebe not a heavenly brow?
Is it not white as pearl. . . as snow?

Echo: "Ass, no!"

Lover: Her eyes! Was ever such a pair?
Are the stars brighter than they are?

Echo: "They are!"

Lover: Echo, you lie, you can't deceive me;
Her eyes eclipse the stars, believe me—

Echo: "Leave me!"

Lover: But come, you saucy, pert romancer,
Who is as fair as Phoebe? Answer.

Echo: "Ann, sir!"

Harney was born in Georgetown, Del., March 9, 1798, the second son of Revolutionary War Major Thomas Harney, and brother of General William Harney of the Black Hawk and Mexican wars. His family emigrated to Tennessee, then Louisiana; young Harney studied medicine in Philadelphia before settling in Bardstown as one of the earliest physicians of the State.

Four years after his marriage in 1814, Eliza Rowan died, which grieved Harney so much that he abandoned medicine and travelled abroad. Broken in health he returned to Bardstown about 1822, joined the Catholic church, then the Dominican order at St. Rose Priory, Springfield, Ky. Before ordination, he died while on a visit with the Rowans in Bardstown and was buried in their private cemetery at Federal Hill.

III.

ARCHBISHOP MARTIN J. SPALDING

Martin J. Spalding, writer, orator, teacher, administrator, bishop and above all, a saintly man, was not born in Bardstown, as is sometimes said, but in the Rolling Fork settlement near Lebanon, May 23, 1810. His ancestors were English Catholics who had "settled in St. Mary's county, Maryland, before 1650".

A frail, precocious child, Martin when only eight years old learned the multiplication tables in one day. In 1821 he entered St. Mary's College, Lebanon, and was so brilliant that at 14 he was made "professor of mathematics". This became an occasion of great wonder all over the State, bringing many travellers to the college "to see this wonderful boy professor." Several times

his ability was challenged by strangers, but each time he vindicated himself. He was graduated with highest honors from St. Mary's in 1826 and went immediately to the diocesan seminary at Bardstown. There and later at Rome, he continued to distinguish himself. At the Vatican city, "he is said to have made a seven hour defense in Latin of 256 theological propositions. This exhibition won for him a doctor's diploma and his ordination as priest."

Shortly after his return he began in Bardstown the first Catholic periodical ever issued in Kentucky, the St. Joseph College *Minerva*, a monthly magazine more literary than religious. In 1836 he was one of the founders of the weekly journal, the *Catholic Advocate*.

Dr. Spalding was a prolific but careful writer, his rhetoric being plain and to the point. His ability was not limited to scholarly treatises; he could tell a story as well. In fact, *Sketches of Early Catholic Missions in Kentucky* and *Life of Bishop Flaget* are his best remembered works, much sought today by collectors.

On the death of Bishop Flaget in 1850, Father Spalding became bishop of Louisville; in 1863 he was made archbishop of Baltimore, where he died, February 7, 1872.

IV.

THEODORE O'HARA

Theodore O'Hara was educated at St. Joseph's College and visited occasionally at Federal Hill. His father, Kane O'Hara of Frankfort, one of the most accomplished educators in the state, was a close friend of Father Badin.

The younger O'Hara's claim to literary distinction rests on a single poem, "The Bivouac of the Dead", a sonorous dirge commemorating the re-interment at Frankfort of the Kentuckians slain in the battle of Buena Vista. Different lines of the poem have been carved

in marble or cast in bronze on soldiers' monuments and cemetery gates throughout the country. Though the poem is cherished by Kentuckians, the *Dictionary of American Biography* says of its author: "Besides the social charm and derring-do that were natural to him, O'Hara possessed a magniloquence that his friends amiably mistook for evidence of literary genius. He is remembered for a single poem."

V.

REV. HENRY S. SPALDING S. J.

Father Harry Spalding will probably be longest remembered for his boys' books, 16 in all, which include *Cave by the Beechfork*, *Mill on the Withrose* and *Sheriff of the Beechfork*, all with settings in and around Bardstown. These stories have been translated into Spanish, Polish and German.

As a teacher Father Spalding also published texts on sociology and ethics; and his *Catholic Colonial Maryland*, commemorating the 300th anniversary of the founding of Maryland, is a fine piece of historical writing.

The son of a Bardstown merchant and descendant of pioneers of Maryland and Kentucky, Father Spalding studied at St. Joseph's College before joining the Jesuits. He died in Cincinnati, December 28, 1934.

VI.

JOSEPH SEAMAN COTTER

Joseph Seaman Cotter, "Kentucky's only negro writer of real creative ability, was born near Bardstown, February 2, 1861." His mother was a maid at Federal Hill. From hard day labor in Louisville, Cotter went to night school, educating himself so well he rose to become principal of Tenth Ward colored school, Louisville. He

has published volumes of verse, drama and short stories, the best of which are *Caleb the Degenerate*, *A White Song and a Black One* and *Negro Tales*.

One of his cleverest poems is the following:

NEGRO LOVE SONG

I lobe your hands, gal; yes I do,
(I'se gwine ter wed ter-marro')
I lobe your earnings thro' and thro'
(I'se gwine ter wed ter-marro')

Now, heahs de truf: I'se most nigh broke;
I wants to take you fer my yoke;
So let's go wed ter-marro'.

Now don't look shy, an' don't say no
(I'se gwine ter wed ter-marro')
I hope you don't expects er show
When we two weds ter-marro'
I needs er license—you know I do—
I'll borrow de price of de same from you,
An' den we weds ter-marro'!

How pay you back? In de reg'ler way,
When you becomes my honey
You'll habe myself for de princ'pal pay,
An' my faults fer de inter's money.
Dat suits you well? Dis cash is right,
So we weds ter-marro' night,
An' you works all de ter-marro's.

Cotter's work has been praised "by Alfred Austin, Madison Cawein, Charles J. O'Malley, and other excellent judges of poetry."

VII.

Others

Dr. Jouett Vernon Cosby, the Presbyterian minister who conducted Roseland Academy, was a poet of sufficient renown to be noted by Collins in his history of Kentucky. Dr. Cosby was born in 1816. His daughter is Bardstown's Mrs. Carrie Fulton, esteemed educator and lecturer.

Mention was made in the *Nelson County Record* of 1896 of the writings of Judge John E. Newman and his wife, Marian Olive Newman. Mrs. Newman was a poet of local and state reputation; her husband a great lawyer and scholar. He was the author "of several law books of considerable note, among them, *Newman's Pleadings and Practice* (1784)", which Hon. Ben Johnson says is to be found in all prominent law libraries of the country.

Hon. Ben J. Webb, writer, editor and son of Nehemiah Webb, one of Kentucky's earliest settlers, was born and reared in Bardstown. He attended St. Joseph College and associated himself with many literary activities of the town. He began a magazine, *The Adventurer* in 1839: was one of the editors of the *Catholic Advocate*, moving to Louisville in 1841 when the editorial offices were transferred there; and established the *Catholic Guardian* in 1858.

His important historical book, *Centenary of Catholicity in Kentucky*, is a monumental piece of work and a great service to the State. After the reprehensible events of "Bloody Monday" in Louisville, he addressed a series of essays to George D. Prentice, editor of the *Daily Courier*, for his shameless part in the affair.

Sarah Irwin Mattingly, a graduate of Nazareth and second wife of Bardstown's Dr. C. P. Mattingly, came originally from Columbia, S. C. Her importance in the field of literature is as "the first woman editor of an American magazine devoted to literature and science." This was the *Kentucky Magazine*, founded at Bardstown in 1880.

Mrs. Mattingly's illustrious daughter, Mrs. William Brown Meloney—Marie Mattingly Meloney—was a newspaper woman. Born in Bardstown in 1882, she moved to Washington D. C. when five years old. When only 17 she began a journalism career, setting precedents early: "She was the first woman reporter to be

granted a seat in the Senate press gallery." *Who's Who* records her later career as magazine editor of *Woman's Magazine*, *Everybody's*, the *Delineator*, the *Herald-Tribune* Sunday magazine, and finally, *This Week*.

Some years ago it was estimated that Mrs. Meloney was the highest paid newspaper woman in the world, with a reported salary of \$25,000 annually. The *Memphis Commercial Appeal* commented in 1934: "During her editorial career, she has purchased more than \$4,000,000 worth of fiction."

Mrs. Meloney's activities among women's clubs merited decorations from three European countries—France, Belgium, Poland—for "distinguished service" during and after World War I. Perhaps her greatest role was organizer of the Marie Curie Radium Commission, about which Eva Curie tells at length in the biography of her mother.

Mrs. Meloney died in New York in 1943.

The late John M. Cooney, head of the journalism school at Notre Dame, taught school in Bardstown as a young man. In 1926 he published a novel, *Hills of Rest*, of which he said: "Many of the scenes and several characters were suggested by persons in and around Bardstown."

The following paragraph from the story, depicting preparations for county court day, are unmistakably Bardstown's Talbott House and lawyers' row on old court square.

In and about the hotel kitchen there is unusual clatter; the lawyers sit ready in their offices ranged about the courthouse square, although it is as yet scarcely seven o'clock; before the livery stable are long lines of vehicles, pushed out by stable boys to make room within. . . In the Court house, every official is to be discovered in his office, a most unusual thing indeed.

From the pen of Friar M. Raymond, a Trappist at

Gethsemani, have come three popular books in recent years. They are *The Man Who Got Even With God*, *The Family That Overtook Christ* and *Three Religious Rebels*. The first has a local setting, recounting the life of Brother Joachim, native Kentucky Trappist.



WALTER H. KISER
SUNKEN GARDEN

PRINTER AND EDITOR

The value of newspapers as sources of historical study is often overlooked by libraries. Since they are difficult to acquire and since they take up considerable shelf room, they are frequently rejected in favor of source material not nearly so useful in research. I doubt whether any contemporary expression of printed opinion and fact, both for national and local history, measures up to the newspaper. No history of a town or city can be written without recourse to its newspapers. In the 18th and early 19th centuries even the advertisements have unique value in social and economic study.—*American Newspapers, 1737-1900*

It would be practically impossible to say how many newspapers have been published in Bardstown, for newspapers, like literary magazines, sometimes spring up over night and die almost as hastily. Copies of these papers turn up in singular and unexpected places.

The earliest notice of a local paper appeared in the "Minutes of the Bardstown Board of Trustees" for June 24, 1797:

... Ordered that all lots in Bardstown that have not been sold be exposed to sale on the first Tuesday in September next in the Court House in the said Town and that it shall be advertised in the public *Gazette* for two months.

This journal was probably a monthly. No copies are known to exist today.

Western American, next paper of which there is a record, began in September 1803, published in Bardstown by Francis Peniston. In 1806 it was transferred to Louisville. Two copies of this paper are pasted on the back of a land title issued in 1785 to a James Harold in the vicinity of Bardstown. The document is now owned by Mrs. R. H. Edelen. Both sheets are partially defaced, but the dates October 18, and November 25, 1803 are legible. The later copy bears on its masthead "Vol. I, No. XII" stating the subscription price as "Two Dollars per ann., Payable in Advance". Measuring only $7\frac{1}{2} \times 12$, there is little original matter in either issue, both carrying national and international news from other papers.

McMurtrie and Allen's *Check List of Kentucky Imprints 1781-1810* gives to Francis Peniston, editor of the *Western American*, credit for printing the first book in Bardstown (1804).

Another early newspaper, the *Candid Critic*, published in 1807, was noted by Webb in connection with his father:

I am indebted to the courtesy of William F. Booker Esq., of Springfield, for a copy of the 42nd issue of a newspaper published in Bardstown in 1807, by P. Isler, under the title of *Candid Critic*. In this issue appears the following advertisement: "The subscriber hereby informs the public that he has got his Cotton Gin again in operation, and that he continues to purchase flaxseed and wheat.—Nehemiah Webb, Bardstown, Dec. 9, 1807."

Alfred Wathen, Jr. in writing the history of the *Kentucky Standard*, present Bardstown paper, names another early local sheet, the *Impartial Review*, stating that such a journal was authorized to publish advertisements, December 6, 1806.

The archives of Loretto motherhouse possesses a file of the *Western Herald* for the years 1825-1834. In

1831 the name was changed to *Bardstown Herald*, published "every Wednesday by N. Wickliffe and S. Railey." Jack Muir owns a paper by the same name for September 18, 1851, but listed as Vol. 1 - No. 40, evidently an entirely different enterprise.

Right after the Civil War, the *Bardstown Plain-dealer* was started by Eva Yager, issue No. 4, Vol. 1, March 10, 1866, being among Jack Muir's files. Probably the name was changed to *Bardstown Leader*, as volumes 10 to 12 of such a sheet were published in April and May of 1866.

Just when these papers were discontinued is not known, but Hon. Ben Johnson has stated that for several years Bardstown had no paper. He believes that the *Nelson County Record* was founded in the 1870's.

The *Kentucky Standard* began publication shortly after the turn of the present century. Its editors, the Wathen family and Judge Wallace Brown, rendered a great service to the community in 1934 and 1935 by running a series of articles on the history and folklore of the town. Much of the information in these features was obtained from old copies of the *Herald* and the *Nelson Record*.

Of the religious papers, the *Catholic Advocate* was founded February 13, 1836, by Rev. George A. M. Elder and Rev. Martin J. Spalding. A file of bound copies of this paper until 1843 are found in the Catholic University library, Washington D. C.

The *Western Protestant* was founded by N. L. Rice, also in 1836, a few months after the Catholic paper started. Three years later it was joined with the *Protestant Herald*, Louisville.



FOLKLORE

There stands a house upon a hill,
 To which a youth, a dreamer,
 found his way;
 Drank deep of summer, then
 With threads of romance and of sadness
 wove a spell
 That thobs forever in a song—
 "My Old Kentucky Home"

—Nora Lee McGee

Bardstown has a great fund of legends and anecdotes to satisfy the tastes of both realists and dreamers. Some of this folklore is almost as old as the town.

At the extreme east end of Flaget street there is a sheer cliff overlooking a neglected winding pike with horseshoe bend, which formerly passed over the town branch then forked into roads leading to Bloomfield or past Federal Hill to Springfield. From this cliff, legend says, a pair of Indian lovers jumped to their death. Reason for the suicide is rather vague.

Half way down the cliff is one of the entrances to Bardstown's cave, which winds under the town to the rear of St. Joseph's College—if indeed this is the same

cave. Portions of Bardstown are known to be undermined—Flaget street near Second, and Main street in front of the courthouse and along the west side of the business section. There is a story that many years ago a man playing a fiddle entered the east end of the cave, intending to follow its underground course to the other exit. But he never came out. Of this man, old darkeys tell a variation of the childish superstition about hearing the devil beating his wife by putting one's ear to the ground during a rain when the sun is shining. They say if one puts his ear to the ground in front of the court house on dark nights, he can hear the old fiddler still sawing away at his music.

Another colored legend about the cave, told for the purpose of frightening children into good behavior, spoke of imaginary characters called "bloody Butcher" and "Sally Malingo" as inhabiting the den.

At the base of this cliff there formerly stood an old water mill on the town creek. The same stream is said to have furnished John Fitch with a testing place for his boat models. Another version of this story claims that he tried his boats on a pond near court square where he is now buried.

In a booklet called "Tales of Old Bardstown", Nora McGee relates a tragedy connected with the old water mill:

In early days, a miller named Silas Marsden lived with his wife and foster son, Henry Winthrop, in a cabin near the mill. Henry was a reckless, dissipated boy, giving his foster parents much trouble. Mrs. Marsden loved the boy and for her sake, Silas was lenient with him until the boy was finally arrested for forgery. Silas obtained a pardon for Henry under the condition that he leave the country. And so the boy disappeared.

Some months later, Pompey, one of Marsden's trusted slaves, confessed to his master that he had witnessed a meeting between his wife and another man during the husband's absence in Bardstown the night before.

Being seized with jealousy, Marsden planned to watch

his wife. He told her that urgent business called him away indefinitely. Half-crazed that night he stationed himself near the mill. Soon a man and a woman, whom he recognized as his wife, came out of the darkness, paused on a broad, flat rock beneath the shadows of a towering oak, and conversed lovingly. Leaping from concealment, Marsden fired several shots at the pair. Both fell fatally wounded.

As the wife lay dying she motioned toward the dead man and whispered, "Henry. . ." Instantly a terrible light broke on Marsden as he realized it was his stepson, returned secretly to visit his mother of whom he was really fond.

Marsden fled. The mill passed into other hands as the years went by. One morning the new miller found upon the same flat rock where tragedy had occurred, the body of a man who had shot himself. It was Silas Marsden.

The story concludes with the comment that for years the stone showed discolorations which turned blood red after a rain. In a clump of cedars nearby, three rude limestone slabs mark the graves of the victims of the old water mill tragedy.

The old mill was torn down within the memory of many of Bardstown's older citizens. It was reputed to be the oldest mill south of the Ohio, having been constructed by pioneer millwright Nehemiah Webb in 1789. For years its overshot wheel ground out grain for the whole community. One of the last owners before the city took it over as "an adjunct to the workhouse, an extensive rock quarry surrounding the old plant", was a former Trappist monk, Philip Doran, who is remembered as a very gentle old man who used to give children pieces of candy to kiss him. It is said he returned to Gethsemani before he died.

Another Trappist, a lay brother, Ignatius Hottenroth, who was dispensed of his vows when the community returned to France in 1813, is subject of a little known story told by Young E. Allison. Want of funds proved a heavy obstacle in the construction of the cathedral at Bardstown. Bishop Flaget did not know where to turn to get money for the erection of the rectory, which

was also to be the seminary—the first St. Joseph's College. Old Hottenroth was the answer to his prayers but under unfortunate conditions; he drowned in 1817. When his will was read, the church was beneficiary of the \$2,500 the old man had accumulated.

One more story concerning the old mill is told by Nora McGee, who reports that a band of Federal soldiers was surprised in the old mill by General John H. Morgan and a detachment of his troops. In the sharp engagement which followed, the Unionists were captured, but Alex Moody, one of Morgan's men, was killed. He lies buried in a thicket not far distant. In the same vicinity, but further south and closer to Federal Hill, there is another Civil War cemetery, almost totally forgotten today.

Many incidents related to Bardstown concern the War Between the States. The town was divided in its sympathy, but most of the citizens were Southern sympathizers. Many detachments of troops, both Confederate and Union, passed through the town. On one occasion the well in the back yard of the old Baker Smith home was drunk dry by Federal troops. On another occasion, one of the General Buell's soldiers, a rascal named Calhoun, shot and killed reputable Bardstown distiller William Sutherland. Hon. Ben Johnson told the story in detail in the *Kentucky Standard*, January 31, 1935.

On the lawn of Mr. Johnson's home the first Confederate flag—made by his mother—was raised in 1861.

The guerrillas Quantrill and the James brothers are subjects of another series of articles by Mr. Johnson.

Doctors were much in demand during the Civil War, especially by the Union troops. On one occasion Dr. C. P. Mattingly, a Confederate sympathizer whose two sons served in the Southern army (the younger one, Thomas, being only a boy of 15 when he ran away from home to become a drummer), was to have been forced

into Union service. He was warned in time to hide in the valley near the western entrance to Bardstown's cave.

On another occasion a detachment of Yankees came to his house, the leader ordering the flag pole in the yard bearing the stars and bars to be cut down. One uncouth soldier, detailed to perform the task, knocked on the door and demanded, "What son-of-a-bitch put that flag up there?" Undaunted by this crudeness, Mrs. Mattingly who had answered the door replied, "No one of that description lives here", and slammed the door in the soldier's face.

Of Wickland it is related that one day during the war, two simultaneous knocks were heard. Julia Wickliffe Beckham, daughter of Governor Charles A. Wickliffe, answered the side door first, receiving a packet of letters from her husband at the hand of a Southern soldier. She scarcely had time to warn him and conceal the letters in the fold of her dress when repeated knocks at the front door forced her to answer. There stood a Northern soldier demanding a search of the house.

Another incident concerning a Bardstown woman, Sally Roane, who later married into the Wickliffe family, was frequently told by abolitionists in their arguments against slavery. Shortly before the Civil War, the finances of the Roane family were in such bad straits that the slaves had to be sold to satisfy a mortgage. First to mount the auction block was the negro nurse carrying Sally in her arms, and wailing that she belonged to the baby she carried. But the auctioneer proceeded with the sale. When it was too late, someone shouted to the father, "Don't you realize you are selling your own daughter into slavery?" The law stipulated that any child on the block with a slave was subject to the auction.

"Thus," commented the *Courier-Journal*, which recounted the incident on March 22, 1939, "Sally Roane,

a great-granddaughter of Patrick Henry and descendent of a long line of Virginians and Kentuckians who had made American history, was sold into slavery." Fortunately, a friend of the Roane family had outbid all competitors. Both child and nurse were returned to the father, but there was no denying that Sally had been legal chattel. The stone slave block on the public square is still preserved.

Members of the Pleiades Club were subjects of many more anecdotes than those told by Washington Irving in the *Crayon Papers*. It is said of Charles A. Wickliffe, for instance, that at one time he was allowing gambling to interfere with his career as a lawyer. To teach him a lesson, William Pope DuVal and John Pope Oldham planned a card game with the intention of making Wickliffe lose everything he owned. But the game turned out otherwise; it was he who won. The *Kentucky Standard* added: "When the truth was told, he was so impressed that he never allowed cards to endanger his career again; he became so prominent in politics that some historians claim he stopped Henry Clay from becoming President."

Most fabulous figure of the Pleiades was tragic John Hays whose heavy drinking blighted an otherwise promising career. William R. Grigsby, Bardstown lawyer of the past century, once said of Hays:

I have heard Mr. Webster, Mr. Clay, Mr. Benton and Mr. Marshall but firmly believe that if Mr. Hays had ever represented this district in Congress, he could and would have crushed them all in one blow. Hays' voice was like music, and as a debator and constructor of sentences, he never had an equal during all my recollections.

In the *Nelson County Record* appeared the following sketch concerning John Hays:

John Hays was possibly the most gifted speaker this state ever produced. He was an unfortunate genius, with remarkable attainments, but led a miserable life and met a violent untimely death. . .

On February 22, 1829, two fine young men from St. Joseph's college delivered long and polished orations in the old court house. A large and splendid audience was in attendance, commemorating Washington's birth.

Hays had been intoxicated for over a week, but somehow he made his way in unnoticed and heard all that was said. Like an old hound he caught the eye of the pack; his uncontrolled ambition, which had slept but was never extinguished, blazed forth. . . The impulse was sudden, but it was irresistible. With three strides he reached the rostrum, opened in his remarkable manner, surprising and delighting his hearers. The effect was astounding; it was sublime.

In effect never had there been beheld such a transition as he exhibited. A few minutes previous he had been seen on the streets in a drunken stupor. He stood forth now in all the proud claims and high aspirations of a forensic hero. He spoke like an orator, a patriot, an American, a poet. For this intrepid and original son of the West was all of them on this occasion.

One morning his body was found cold and stiff along the roadside near a distillery, and everybody at the time thought that his horse had thrown him while drunk and killed him. In after years an old Irishman on his death bed confessed having killed Hays for his money—just 45 cents in change.

Fathers Nerinckx and Badin were also characters around whom legends naturally grew. The impetuosity and wit of the latter, the strength yet gentleness of the former, as well as the uncompromising fight of both against evil have left clearly defined marks on Bardstown and its vicinity. Still practiced by some families are devotions urged by these rugged pioneer priests, the custom of family night prayers in common, for example, and some of the ejaculations used in these prayers.

Of Father Nerinckx it is said that in constructing the early chapels he could lift logs beyond the strength of two or three men. This ability, which won the admiration of many, reacted in quite a different way on one giant bully who swore he would beat Father Nerinckx in personal combat. Because of the natural inoffensiveness of the priest, the problem was to provoke such a fight. All

else failing the bully finally attacked him. Father Nerinckx won without striking a blow. He merely encircled the giant with his brawny arms, put him on the ground, and would not release him until he promised to go peacefully. After that, the priest and the bully were good friends, the latter almost dog-like in his devotion.

It is natural that many legends should have grown up around Federal Hill. One of recent brewing was tolerated by Bardstown citizens who were more than once amused by the reactions of tourists. An elderly darkey, Bemus Allen, whose snow white hair and beard made him look much older than he really was, for years used to sit near the back door of the Old Kentucky Home, fiddling his way into the hearts and pocketbooks of visitors. To give an added tone of the romantic past to his music, someone suggested that he tell his listeners that he was the son of "Old Black Joe". The story was a complete success. At least one sentimental lady planted a kiss on his homely black face when she was told this bit of fantasy. Bemus continued to use the story until his death a few years ago.

One curator of Federal Hill, being unable to account for two beautiful feminine portraits in the parlor, would sometimes whisper in confidence that they were the daughters of one of the Popes of Rome. They are really portraits of the Johnston sisters, brought up from the deep South during the Civil War and never reclaimed.

Young E. Allison has told another fascinating story about Foster, his song and Federal Hill:

There lived but yesterday in Bardstown a modest gentleman, an architect of cultivation, taste and keen memory. He was Mr. E. Baker Smith. He was born in 1831. Sitting on his hospitable porch one evening in the summer of 1919, looking toward his 88th birthday, then approaching, I asked him about the Bardstown of 1852 and the writing of the song.

"I myself never saw Foster," he answered simply. I was then just a very busy boy, but I knew he was at the

Rowans'. He was a great popular song writer of the day. We all knew he was here. I know nothing of its writing except the story told at the time that there was a young lady of sweet voice visiting in the house party; that Foster had written a song of Federal Hill and, at the dance given there the night before, the young lady had sung the song for the first time it was heard in public, under Foster's coaching and with him playing the accompaniment. No, I do not recall her name. She was a stranger here."

Who was that girl with the sweet voice? . . . There is no answer—there never will be; but the song she sang in that hushed hour sings on immortal.

An article in the Sunday *Courier-Journal*, November 3, 1940 chides Bardstown for honoring only one musician. The author claimed that the town has a claim not only to Foster but to Bohemian composer Anthony Philip Heinrich, who early in the 19th century gave Kentucky and America its first taste of Beethoven, and was himself later called "the Beethoven of America." States author Russel DuFour:

To this historic town came the eccentric musician in 1818. Kentucky seemed to have a peculiar fascination for him. Her romantic history, coupled with her great natural beauty, seemed to give him the idea that here he would find inspiration.

He was not dissatisfied, for here began his real musical career. In Bardstown he conceived the idea of essaying Americanism in music, or building music upon American subjects.

He lived among the Indians around Bardstown and listened to their strange melodies, watching their weird dances. Though not the first to recognize the Indians as a fit subject for music, he was the first to weave their melodies into symphonies and choral work of large dimensions. . .

Louis Philippe has been caviar for romantic local minds. Besides a ridiculous story linking his name with frescoes on the walls of one of the rooms in the Talbott House, there are others with no more basis in truth. Occasionally it is heard that he lived incognito in Bardstown for many years, teaching French dancing, fencing,

or just plain French. It doesn't matter that history can account of his presence in Europe during these years.

There are countless other stories about Bardstown and its people. Many of them are family traditions and can be learned from members of the old families still residing in the town. Numerous others have appeared in the *Kentucky Standard*.



RELIABLE SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON BARDSTOWN

ARCHIVES

1. Nelson County Courthouse, Loretto Academy, Nazareth Academy, St. Joseph's College and St. Joseph Cathedral. The Cathedral archives are not complete, some of the oldest records including a diary of Archbishop Spalding having burned.
2. Filson Club, Louisville.
3. Western Kentucky State Teachers College, Bowling Green.
4. Catholic University, Washington D. C., containing the library of Bishop John Lancaster Spalding of Peoria.
5. Baltimore Cathedral archives, a rich source of primary material for colonial and pioneer Catholic history.
6. Private collections of material, particularly of Hon. Ben Johnson, Dr. Lee Crume, Jack Muir, Nora McGee, Olive Talbott, and Katharine Meadows Edelen.

GENERAL WORKS

1. Allison, Young E. - "The Curious Legend of Louis Philippe in Kentucky"; "The Old Kentucky Home"; and "A Chapter from Trappist History in Kentucky".
2. Badin, Rev. S. T. - *Origine et Progres de la Mission du Kentucky*.
3. Boyd, Thomas - *Poor John Fitch*.
4. Fox, Sister Columbia - *Life of Rt. Rev. John Baptist David*.
5. Howlett, Rev. W. J. - *Life of Rev. Charles Nerinckx*; and *St. Thomas Seminary*.
6. Irving, Washington - *Crayon Papers*.

7. Little, Lucius P. - *Ben Hardin—His Times and Contemporaries*.
8. McGill, Anna B. - *Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, Ky.*
9. Maes, Rev. C. P. - *Life of Rev. Charles Nerinckx.*
10. Mattingly, Sister Ramona - *Catholic Church on the Kentucky Frontier, 1785-1812.*
11. Minogue, Anna C. - *Loretto Annals of the Century.*
12. O'Daniels, Rev. V. R. - *Life of Rev. Samuel Thomas Wilson.*
13. Spalding, J. L. - *Life of Most Rev. Martin J. Spalding.*
14. Spalding, M. J. - *Sketches of Early Catholic Missions in Kentucky; and Life of Rt. Rev. Benedict Joseph Flaget.*
15. Webb, B. J. - *Centenary of Catholicity in Kentucky.*
16. Wescott, Thompson - *Life of John Fitch.*
17. Winn, Mary Day - *Macadam Trail.*

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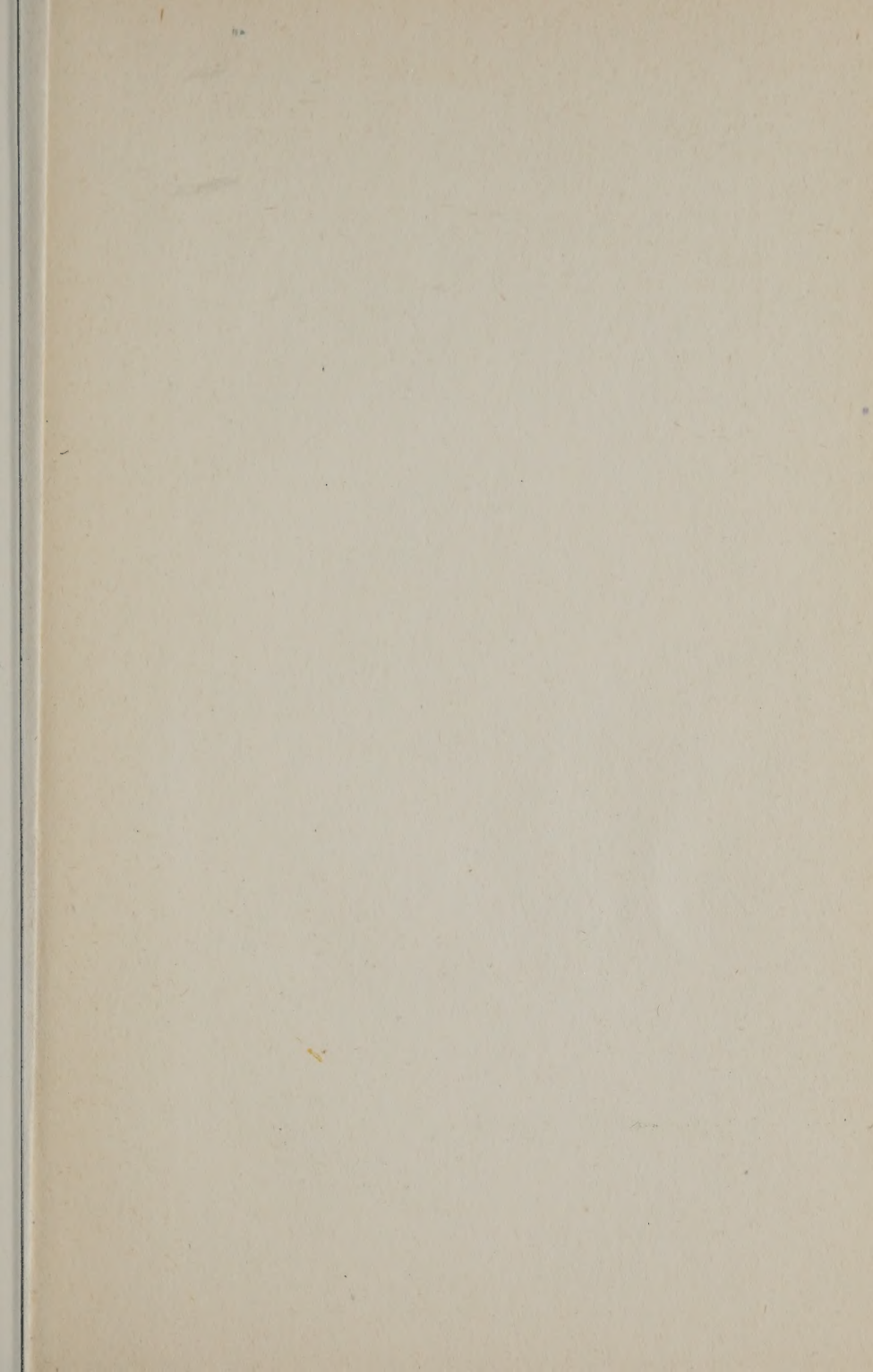
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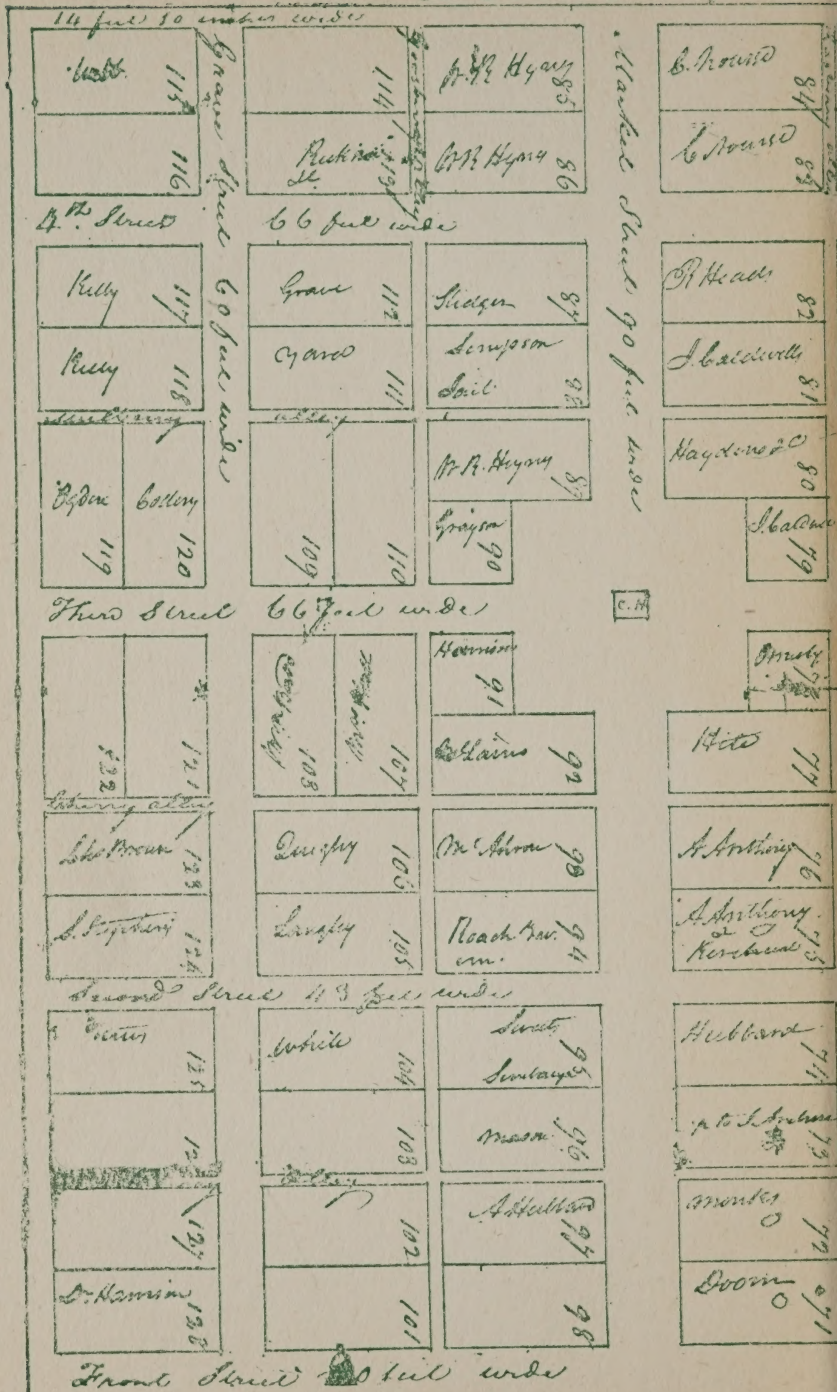
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NAP OF BARDSTOWN, KY.

Nelson County, Sct.
I Benjamin Grayson clerk of the county court of the said county do certify that the within is a true copy of the plan of Bardstown now of record in my office. Given under my hand this 26th day of September 1824.

Sgt. Ben Grayson

Phormium tecttonum, 40 feet wide

21	W. H. Hahn
22	H. Hahn
23	H. Hahn
24	W. H. Hahn
25	H. Hahn
26	H. Hahn
27	H. Hahn
28	H. Hahn

Wend	36
Lewis	85
Yoder	34
A. Muckhoff	88
One born	82
Kendall	81
Pearson with	80
	79

<i>Laminaria</i>	674	Moss Island	28
<i>Zoster</i>			51
<i>A. Muckley</i>			55
<i>L. Muckley</i>			58
<i>Mr. Barry</i>			64
<i>S. mossy</i>			55
<i>S. mossy</i>			56

[illegible]

